

Kelce College of Business
Kelce Leadership Council – Email Meeting
March 27, 2026

Program Coordinator Reports

Accounting – Mary Jo Goedeke

VITA is underway. Three weeks are completed and three weeks remain until the end of tax season. We have had 7 student volunteers participate in clinic days. We are in Kelce 103 from 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. on Mondays through tax season. Anyone who meets requirements of the VITA program can have their taxes completed for free. We welcome new customers so please encourage anyone who would benefit from the program to attend.

Business Economics – Shipra Paul

The Economics faculty met on Wednesday, March 25. Dr. Gately, faculty advisor of the Economics Club, and Dr. Binder will accompany four students to a PPE (Politics, Philosophy, and Economics) competition in Ottawa, Kansas, on April 10. The PPE competition is an intercollegiate academic event that challenges students' understanding of free enterprise, classical liberal ideas, and economic theory through debates, presentations, and strategic simulations. Additionally, three students from Dr. Gately's seminar class will participate in a research colloquium on April 9, where they will present their research topics.

Business Studies – Holly Kent

We are still awaiting an update on the Business Studies-Business Education option for students. KSDE had indicated a response by the end of March.

Data Science Information Systems – Dwight Strong

The only thing to report from DSIS is that we have some tentative dates for our Fall AI challenge. The possible dates are Oct 19, 23, 30, or Nov. 6. If there are any conflicts with these dates, please let me know.

Finance – Larry Woodward

I contacted all faculty in the Finance program asking for news, events, etc. for students in the program. I got no email response from any of the faculty so I do not have a report at this time.

HRD – Judy Smetana

For the BBA HRD:

- The HRD minor was approved at faculty senate
- The HRD club is running and active this semester. We have 32 total members.

For MS HRD:

- Getting ready for HRD comprehensive exams.
- Working on curriculum updates.

For CBTD: first two workshops completed. 20+ in the first, 30+ in the second. Regional businesses very happy with the opportunity for development and training.

Management & Supply Chain Management – Sang-Heui Lee

The 2027 Midwest Academy of Management conference will be hosted at the Kelce College of Business. The conference leadership plans to visit us in May for a familiarization tour of our campus and town. This will include a preview of the new building, which will serve as a premier asset for the event.

During Spring Break, Aaron Hurt, Director of the Office of International Programs and Services, and I visited partner universities, including a new partner in South Korea. All of them expressed a desire to strengthen our partnerships and are interested in joint programs—such as student and faculty exchanges and dual degrees—within the Engineering and Science fields. We have identified summer camps and exchange programs as the ideal starting points. Aaron and I are currently compiling the ideas discussed, and we will soon begin developing detailed plans for each university.

The book donation for ATU has concluded. We collected approximately 363 pounds of relatively new books this time, and I am currently researching the most economical shipping options to Rwanda.

Marketing – Mary Judene Nance

Center for Professional Selling: The Center was approved as an Associate Member of the University Sales Center Alliance (USCA), and will be formally initiated in September. Added one new member to the Professional Sales Advisory Board (PSAB), George Brandecker. There are now 11 members on the Board.

Marketing Association: Dr. Maceli connected the Marketing Association with Madison Marietta, Supervising Broker of Cobb Realty Inc., who joined the group as a guest speaker on March 23rd. Students were highly engaged and eager to learn from Madison's experiences and insights!

Marketing Faculty: Dr. Frank has been invited to give the keynote speech at the 2026 Kewpiesta event on April 15th in Branson, MO. Additionally, Dr. Frank and Dr. Maceli had a paper accepted at the upcoming Institute for Global Business Research 2026 Spring Conference in Nashville. The paper is entitled, Antecedents of Attitudes Toward Cause-Related Marketing: The Roles of Self-Efficacy, Altruism, and Prosocial Behavior.

Outreach Coordinator Reports

Internship – Melissa Weed

Internship Reception will be held on 4/23/26 from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in the ballrooms at the student center.

- I ask for help encouraging students to attend either by taking your full class over or by offering extra credit for attendance.
- There will be information related to the Career Conn X Internship Program, Parker Dewey Micro-Internships, Internship for Credit, and a small number of employers tableing who are looking for interns for this summer.
- Refreshments will be provided for attendees.

Entrepreneurship - Jane Talkington

Follow us on Instagram because we have 190 followers and need 1,000 to host live streams.

Entrepreneurship.Pitt State (put the period between the first and second word) Our posts regularly get between 500-5,000 views, which seems huge in Pittsburg, Kansas!

Follow us on Facebook: Entrepreneurship Program at Pitt State

Idea Fest 2026 Recap:

The inaugural Idea Fest tradeshow, held in the Overman Ballroom, drew approximately 200 attendees. Of those, 50 professionals served as judges who selected the top three teams, each receiving a \$500 scholarship. About 70 student ballots were cast to select the People’s Choice \$500 scholarship. The event felt like Christmas and 4th of July combined – joy and high energy.



The student orgs selling food was a huge asset and draw. Our student promoting his DJ business (Nate Ham, son of Kelce advisor Dana Ham) provided rave music that drove student attendance (and yes, the music was a tad too loud).

The most popular aspect for students was the judges’ written feedback on “Russ Bucks.” Students highly valued the personalized compliments, with many keeping or framing the bucks. (Judges also requested *more* feedback slips so they could provide written comments to additional teams beyond their top three choices.) In all, 150 “million dollar idea” Russ Bucks of feedback was delivered by judges to student exhibitors. The feedback was priceless, but technically \$150,000,000 of validation was bestowed.

Thirty-three student teams participated, though seven teams that had reserved tables did not attend. One local high school YEC student entrepreneur also presented. Though community colleges were invited, none participated. Video from this year will help recruit for next year’s event. *Should it be at Overman or Kelce Downtown?*

I conducted two classroom debriefs to help students capture lessons learned from the planning angle and the student exhibitor perspective. The Admissions Office recorded video interviews with each student entrepreneur. We experimented with an “Ideation Alley” – a row of round tables featuring problems looking for a solution. Quentin Brown tackled homelessness while Hannah Daniels explored ergonomic tools for cosmetology. Notably, Hannah presented her idea to judges who offered to fund her prototype development. She was over-the-moon thrilled. Every student reported a significant confidence boost and positive personal outcomes. Scholarship winners were: Prince Miller (Media Productions), Josh Lawrie (Human

Performance), Morgan Hastings (ME), Carly Reif (Management/Marketing), Jewel Gallagher (Business Administration/Entrepreneurship), and Alycia Cosen (Pre-Med/Entrepreneurship).

A Pitt State PR story **and video** are available here:

<https://www.pittstate.edu/gorillaconnection/2026/03/pitt-states-first-idea-fest-celebrates-student-entrepreneurship.html>

2nd Annual Pitt State Ai Symposium Recap:

March 26 drew about 80 people to the Bicknell. There were 13 poster presentations, a keynote from IBM, and a panel of experts: IBM, Mercy Hospital, PittsCo, and PSU Graphics Dept.

Planning committee feedback today: “I loved the questions from the team and from the attendees. And to top it off . . . Jane: You rocked moderating the event. You are a natural!”

Evidently, my experience juggling cats and chaos paid off when juggling dicey audience questions. Plus, the panel included CCOT’s Rocky Restivo, a true character who brought the house down with laughter with his unique brand of authenticity.

Future Events:

- WooshBall Tournament in the Oval organized by BUS 101 is scheduled for Friday, May 15. They will be recruiting a faculty team. No athletic talent required.
- Daymond John is speaking at the Bicknell at 7 pm Friday, May 15. Tickets are \$5 at the Weed, encourage Kelce students to attend and recruit others so we can pack the house.
- Grandparent University in June will include two playful sessions on Entrepreneurship.

Courses:

We had 13 students in the first course ENTR 201 Foundations of Entrepreneurship, some will advance to the second course ENTR 320 Entrepreneurial Marketing.

ENTR 201 Foundations is offered three times a year as an on-ramp to the certificate/minor. In the summer, it is offered as an online course and in the fall and spring it is held on campus. ENTR 320 Entrepreneurial Marketing is also offered in the fall on campus.

Student Orgs:

The Pitt State Entrepreneurs’ Society has been dormant this spring, with its president graduating in the fall. In its place, Dwight Strong and I have stepped in as faculty advisors to the new and active Pitt State AI Club. The club meets weekly on campus and monthly at Block 22. They are currently promoting Parker Dewey micro-internships to help local businesses hire Pitt State students to implement AI in their operations.

Professional Development:

I attended the annual Entrepreneurship Professors conference, which drew over 300 attendees. Faculty were enthusiastically integrating AI into their entrepreneurship curricula. I was able to network extensively with Babson College, #1 Entrepreneurship program in the country for many

years running; that informal collab led to the Russ Bucks feedback strategy. I also toured Lassonde Studios at the University of Utah — the largest entrepreneurship-focused residence hall in the country, housing 400 students.

Locally, I attend most of the Pittsburg Chamber Coffee events every Thursday morning. I promote Idea Fest, Parker-Dewey micro-internships, and Admissions events. Through Block 22, I am part of a group working every Friday with the Center for Rural Innovation ([CORI](#)) that was funded by a Patterson Family grant to develop an asset map of our Innovation Ecosystem in Pittsburg.

Student Engagement – Holly Kent

1. Suitable (Student Engagement Software) - Suitable is currently being tested by approximately 40 students, primarily graduate assistants and student employees. Over the summer, we will review feedback and make necessary adjustments. We are planning to officially launch the app this fall in Kelce Gateway classes. Additional information will be shared with Gateway instructors soon, along with scheduled information sessions for other faculty.
2. Fall Kelce Connection - The Fall Kelce Connection has been distributed. If you would like a hard copy, please stop by the Kelce Student Engagement Suite.
3. Building Task Force - The Building Task Force continues to meet regularly, and we are nearing the point of sharing more details regarding the everyday functionality of the new building. In the meantime, please encourage your areas to continue clearing out unnecessary items, including trash and personal belongings, and to utilize scanning and shredding to reduce physical files.

Administrative Updates

Admin - Mimi Morrison

Met with Building Task Force; we are working toward a policy manual for the new building.

Mimi is working on:

- Hours & Access: official building hours and protocol for after-hours access – this has not been established yet.
- Room Reservations: admins will reserve conference rooms and team rooms in their area; this will be done either through the Outlook calendar system or a new electronic system for each room.
- Deliveries & Mail: Kelce will be required to pick up mail at the University Post Office. The admins have discussed this, and we'll probably make one trip per day for the entire building. Packages will still be delivered from the physical plant.
- Parking: Dr. Grimes is meeting with campus constituents to determine blue and brown parking spots and other available parking spaces for our students.
- Emergency Procedures: will follow protocol already established for all campus buildings and listed on the university web pages.

Associate Dean for Graduate Business Programs - Chelsey Decker

- Five students have applied for the CYCU Business Camp in Taiwan this summer (June–July). Angela Moots (Study Abroad) and Chelsey will select four students to participate in the program.
- Presented to the Pitt State Advising Team (representing all academic disciplines) on Traditional MBA recruitment strategies and pathways for students without an undergraduate business degree to pursue the MBA.
- Received 13 Graduate Assistant (GA) applications for Fall 2027 and need to fill 11 positions. The applicant pool is strong. Names will be shared with faculty for feedback prior to extending offers and forwarded to Jon Bartlow’s office for review of any academic misconduct reports.
- Outstanding Graduate Award recipients have been selected by the Graduate AOL Committee:
 - Outstanding MBA: Matthew Schmidt
 - Outstanding MS HRD: Ashlee Wilber
 - Outstanding MPAcc: Rylee Croft

Faculty Chair – Alex Binder

- Data Tech position - we are bringing two candidates to campus this week.
- Appraisal meetings are complete. Reminder: some faculty need to resubmit their edited goals and objectives.
- Reminder: The deadline to have all courses >80% accessible is April 24. Make use of the CTLT sessions if you want or need help getting into compliance.

Associate Dean for KUSB – Lynn Murray

- Women@Work Luncheon was Friday - I don't have final numbers yet, but I think about 110 attendees. Good program and engagement.
- Recruiting
 - Monday, March 30: Kansas State HS FBLA - we have a table set up at this Topeka event
 - Mid-April: Missouri State HS FBLA - we (Melissa Weed's group) are partnering with Admissions and will have a table there
 - April 11: Admission Office sponsored event targeted at visiting transfer students and late decision makers
 - April 24: Kelce Visit Day
- Beta Gamma Sigma
 - Invites are out, reminders sent. Thank you to the professors whose classes I interrupted
 - Ceremony
 - Thursday evening, March 14. If initiates sign-up to attend, their one-time initiation fee is discounted by a bit and we will provide them with an honor cord for graduation. Parents and guests are welcome.
 - Honorary initiate and keynote is Dr. Susan Bon, Provost.
 - Typically, ceremony lasts less than an hour
- Kelce Picnic - Wednesday, May 6. [Kelce Picnic Sign-up – Fill out form](#). I'll send reminders later in April as well.