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New Bank of America Endowed Professor Named

College of Business Visiting Professor William T. Jackson, DBA, has been named the Bank of America Endowed Professor in Business for the 2008-2009 academic year.

Through this endowment Jackson will continue to generate student opportunities to learn about social responsibility and entrepreneurship with courses that connect them to local businesses for social audits and strategic analyses. Graduate students in the Community Leaders and Partners course dedicated more than 630 hours of social auditing services last summer to firms in Tampa Bay. Students in the Small Business Counseling course dedicated nearly 600 hours of consulting services to businesses that sought help from the Small Business Development Center. These included two retailers, a wholesaler and a medical practice.

"Dr. Jackson exemplifies the reason this endowment was created, and we applaud him for his commitment to social responsibility and promoting entrepreneurial skills not only to benefit the university, but to the wider community as well," said Bernie Craig, Pinellas County president for Bank of America.

Other initiatives of his professorship include expanding the Small Business Development Center Networking Breakfast series which Jackson helped with last year in the College of Business at USF St. Petersburg, and the establishment of a Collegiate Entrepreneurs' Organization chapter. The CEO chapter connects students with local entrepreneurs, organizes community projects and is open to non-business majors.

College of Business Dean Geralyn McClure Franklin said, "Dr. Jackson’s background and expertise is a catalyst for community outreach. He has a talent for engaging multiple faculty in projects that jointly benefit the students and the greater community."

Jackson’s scholarly work focuses on entrepreneurship and improving research within the field. As an endowed professor of entrepreneurship and management at The University of Texas of the Permian Basin, Jackson established the Jan and Ted Roden Center for Entrepreneurship through donations and grants. His co-authored articles have appeared in the Academy of Strategic Management Journal, Journal of Business and Entrepreneurship and the International Journal of Entrepreneurship, among others. He was honored as the Outstanding Educator of the Year by the Association of Small Business and Entrepreneurship in 2005. Jackson joined USF St. Petersburg in May 2007.

The Bank of America Endowed Professorship in Business was created in 1990 to recognize USF St. Petersburg faculty doing outstanding work in the community, through support from the Bank of America Foundation and the State of Florida Matching Grant Program. USF St. Petersburg is dedicated to enhancing the curriculum through the Citizen Scholar model and providing students with unique educational opportunities through coursework that includes community involvement. Jackson’s appointment recognizes his dedication to instruction through community engagement, and the commitment that Bank of America has to benefit its local communities.

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