

# the COMPETITIVE EDGE

IPFW Cooperative Education—Winter 2007–08

## 2006–07 Statistics

### Co-op Students

|       |                    |
|-------|--------------------|
| 32    | Alternating Co-ops |
| 81    | Parallel Co-ops    |
| 20    | Interns            |
| 135   | Total Co-ops       |
| 25    | Average Age        |
| 19–55 | Student Age Range  |

### Co-op Percentages

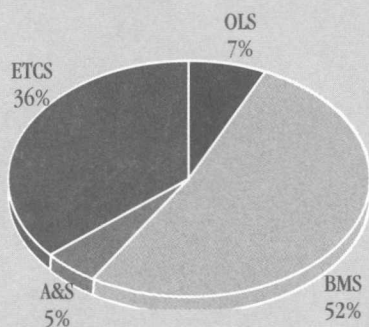
|     |   |
|-----|---|
| 36% | College of Engineering, Technology, and Computer Science      |
| 52% | Richard T. Doermer School of Business and Management Sciences |
| 7%  | Division of Organizational Leadership and Supervision         |
| 5%  | College of Arts and Sciences                                  |

### Co-op Wages

|             |                         |
|-------------|-------------------------|
| \$1,387,641 | Total Salaries Earned   |
| \$6,671     | Average Semester Salary |
| \$13.11     | Average Hourly Wage     |
| \$21.94     | Highest Wage Per Hour   |
| \$8         | Lowest Wage Per Hour    |

### Co-op Employers

|     |                            |
|-----|----------------------------|
| 172 | Employers in Database      |
| 219 | On-Site Visits to Students |



## IPFW Cooperative Education Concludes Anniversary of Twenty Years of Learning Through Experience

In the past 20 years, 2,098 IPFW co-ops worked with 231 employers in northeast Indiana, Alabama, Ohio, Illinois, Kentucky, Massachusetts, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

In 1986, the cooperative education program was created at IPFW via a Title VIII grant. The following year, the first student, an EET major, was placed at the first employer site, General Electric Aircraft Controls. Professor Tom Laverghetta was named as the first faculty coordinator for the program.

Engineering and technology majors were the first to be placed in co-op positions with local companies, followed by those in organizational leadership and supervision.

Cooperative Education is now offered in all academic departments that offer bachelor's degrees with the College of Engineering, Technology, and Computer Science and the Richard T. Doermer School of Business and Management Sciences. The College of Arts and Sciences provides co-op opportunities in biology, chemistry, communication, English, and physics. Students in the Division of Organizational Leadership and Supervision continue their involvement in the program.

In addition to Professor Laverghetta, other individuals who have been involved in the program for most of the program's 20 year history include Paula Reed, serving as the secretary of the department for 18 years, and Diana Burns who was director of the program for 16 years.

### Focus on Faculty

**Thomas S. Laverghetta** is a



professor of electrical and computer engineering technology. He has been a full-time faculty member at IPFW since 1986. Laverghetta

received a B.S.E.E. from Syracuse University in 1971 and an M.S.E.E. from Purdue University in 1991. He has been teaching televised classes since January 1992 and has more than 1650 sessions on the air. Laverghetta has published 12 books on microwaves and communications.

Laverghetta has been the faculty coordinator for the ECET (Electrical and Computer Engineering Technology) department since the program began. Laverghetta has been involved in all aspects of cooperative education: as a co-op student in college, working with co-op students in industry, and now sending students out in industry. He says, "There is no downside to co-op."

20  
Years

Learning Through  
Experience

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION

1986 - 1987 to 2006 - 2007

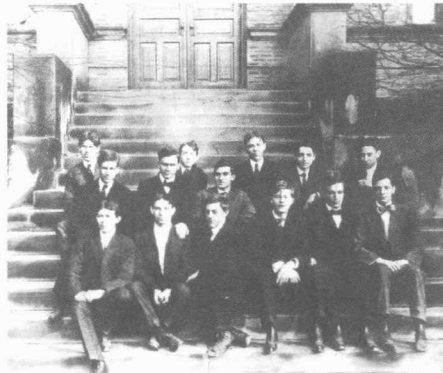
# Co-op Turns 100!

The University of Cincinnati is the global birthplace of cooperative education. In 1906, 27 engineering students were sent into turn-of-the-century mines and mills to see what lessons they'd learn from the paid positions that had been arranged for them.

This was an uncertain experiment alternating time spent at school with professional work experience. Now, 100 years and 43 countries later, generations of students worldwide have followed their lead.

So, the University of Cincinnati began what's known as "Cooperative Education," a timeless practice of transforming youth to experience.

Today, hundreds of thousands of students, studying everything from accounting to zoology continue the ever-expanding educational experiment, combining traditional classroom learning with paid, professional experience directly related to their majors, just like those first University of Cincinnati students.



*Half of the original group of co-op students*

## Statue of Co-op Founder Placed on University of Cincinnati



*Herman Schneider*

Herman Schneider's likeness took shape in a new form this past October, as a 1,500-pound statue more than eight-feet tall was dedicated in his honor at

The University of Cincinnati. In 1906, Schneider, the young and first dean of the university's engineering school, came up with a revolutionary idea that was barely approved by a skeptical board of trustees. He wanted to bring a select number—27 to be exact—of engineering students out into industry where they could practice the theories they were learning in

the classroom. The board decided 5 to 4 to permit Dean Schneider to "try his cooperative experiment for one year, the failure of which we will not be held accountable."

Thus the tenuous birth of cooperative education.... The past 100 years have demonstrated the many benefits of cooperative education. In addition to income to help offset the cost of their education, co-op students build a competitive résumé, have higher retention rates, graduate in larger numbers, and make successful transitions into meaningful and rewarding careers. During the dedication of the statue, UC College of Engineering Dean Carlo Montemagno said, "Herman Schneider's goal was to prepare students to work in a world where change is commonplace."

## Co-op Graduates Climb the 2007 Ladder of Success

### College of Arts and Sciences

Stephanie Johnson  
Matthew Lauber  
Wendy Sack

### Richard T. Doermer School of Business and Management Sciences

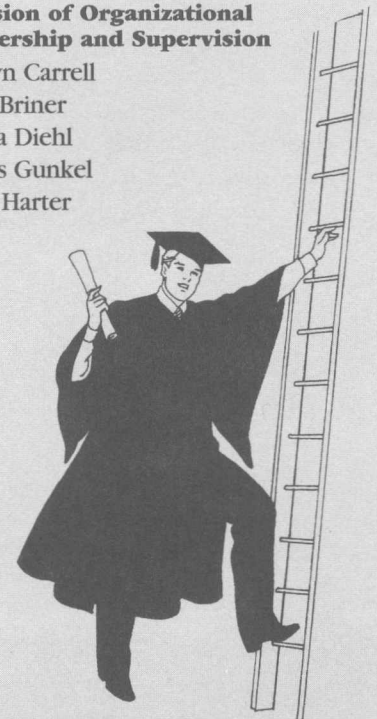
|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| Timeka Bailey    | Brittany Hess    |
| Carina Bullock   | Carrie Hess      |
| Bradley Bertsch  | Joshua Koorsen   |
| Melissa Church   | Mark Landrigan   |
| Laura Dunn       | Douglas Steinman |
| David Estupinan  | Shantell Suttle  |
| Michael Fox      | Nick Turansky    |
| Matthew Hagedorn | Brett Wentz      |
| Jessica Hein     | Ashley Wheeler   |

### College of Engineering, Technology, and Computer Science

|                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Chelsea Blasius | Jeffrey         |
| Adam Brososky   | Makarewich      |
| Matt Duguid     | Justin Robinson |
| Mark Eisaman    | Jeffrey Sellers |
| Dustin Elliott  | Shawn Shoemith  |
| Mike Fudge      | Matthew Sorg    |
| Daniel Garrett  | Joshua Stir     |
| Daniel Jackson  | Bradley Stout   |
| Thomas Johnson  | Zach Tate       |
| Valerie Johnson | David Welter    |
| Kent Macy       |                 |

### Division of Organizational Leadership and Supervision

Ashlyn Carrell  
Kurt Briner  
Krista Diehl  
James Gunkel  
Nick Harter



## Changes...New Name, New Staff

This has been a year of changes for the Co-op office. Our name has changed to the **Office of Academic Internships, Cooperative Education, and Service Learning (OACS)** to reflect the additional services we will provide to students and the community.

It is going to be difficult to shake the co-op moniker as we become accustomed to a new way of answering our phones and sending out correspondence. Most likely, we will always be the "co-op office" to students, but we are hopeful that the name change will alleviate confusion between Cooperative Education and Cooperative Extension—especially during fall semester. We field so many questions about bats, bugs, and canning tomatoes safely.



*Diana Burns*

**Diana Burns** has accepted a new career opportunity at Ashland University, a short distance from her hometown of Mansfield, Ohio. For 16 years, she was the director of Cooperative Education at IPFW. Debra Barrick has assumed the role of interim director. Paula Reed continues in her position as secretary, and Anita Vannatta has been hired as graduate assistant.

*Good luck, Diana!*



NATIONAL  
CO-OP  
MONTH



*A special thanks to those contributing to National Co-op month events in October...*

The Richard T. Doermer School of Business and Management Sciences; College of Engineering, Technology, and Computer Science; College of Arts and Sciences; and the Department of Accounting and Finance for sponsoring the Co-op Connection and to International Truck and Engine for the generous donation for the student lunch.

## Meet the Faculty Co-op Coordinators

### College of Arts and Sciences

Elliott Blumenthal  
Biology  
260-481-6004  
blumenth@ipfw.edu

Ron Friedman  
Chemistry  
260-481-6067  
friedmar@ipfw.edu

John Robinson  
Physics  
260-481-6155  
robinson@ipfw.edu

Katrina Fullman  
Communication  
260-481-5792  
fullmank@ipfw.edu

Hardin Assand  
English  
260-481-6750  
assandh@ipfw.edu

David Legg  
Mathematics  
260-481-6222  
legg@ipfw.edu

Doug Townsend  
Mathematics  
260-481-6235  
townsend@ipfw.edu

### Richard T. Doermer School of Business and Management Sciences

Sue Minke  
Accounting and Finance  
260-481-6464  
minke@ipfw.edu

Jim Moore  
Management, Marketing, and Business  
260-481-6488  
moore@ipfw.edu

### College of Engineering, Technology, and Computer Science

Regina Leffers  
Construction and Architectural Engineering Technology  
260-481-6370  
leffersr@ipfw.edu

Tom Laverghetta  
Electrical and Computer Engineering Technology  
260-481-6423  
lavergh@ipfw.edu

Nash Younis  
Engineering  
260-481-6887  
younis@ipfw.edu

Wilson Liang  
Mechanical and Industrial Engineering Technology  
260-481-6387  
liang@ipfw.edu

Bob Sedlmeyer  
Computer Science  
260-481-6187  
sedlmeye@ipfw.edu

### Division of Organizational Leadership and Supervision

Kim McDonald  
260-481-6418  
mcdonald@ipfw.edu

## How does Cooperative Education work?

Cooperative education offices partner with employers covering a wide range of academic areas. Through this collaboration, employers provide job opportunities and colleges submit eligible student applicants who meet job requirements.

Students may earn academic credit as part of the cooperative education program and are given the opportunity to test drive their chosen career paths. Through a cooperative education program, students learn about developing résumés, the job search, the interviewing process, and receive guidance from co-op professionals.

While co-op employees are an excellent resource for employers, the student gains a first hand look at corporate culture and an organization's working environment. Students also learn about different career paths within an industry, the value of networking, and how these connections can help in their future job searches.

This is the perfect scenario for students to gain a better understanding of career paths and the types of opportunities available.

This is a perfect time for employers to look at the current crop of students, evaluate their performance and, when there is a good fit, entertain the possibility of full-time employment after graduation. A win-win situation for employer and student!

## Contact Us

*The Competitive Edge* is published fall and spring semesters. We welcome your questions, comments, and ideas. E-mail or call 260-481-6939.

**The Office of  
Academic Internships,  
Cooperative Education, and  
Service Learning  
(OACS)**

Neff Hall, Room 337  
2101 E. Coliseum Blvd.  
Fort Wayne, IN 46805-1499

Deb Barrick, Interim Director-OACS  
barrickd@ipfw.edu

Paula Reed, Secretary  
reed@ipfw.edu

Anita Vannatta, Graduate Assistant

[www.ipfw.edu/oacs](http://www.ipfw.edu/oacs)



Office of Academic Internships,  
Cooperative Education, and Service Learning  
Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne  
2101 E. Coliseum Blvd.  
Fort Wayne, IN 46805-1499

