



Ed and Betty Robinson Accounting Faculty Fellow Annual Report – 2020

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Support provided from the Ed and Betty Robinson Faculty Fellow continues to allow Michigan Tech's Accounting program to thrive. This past year, resources again were utilized in three main areas: student support, curriculum development, and faculty professional development.

Student Support

Scholarships continue to be a hallmark of the Ed and Betty Robinson Faculty Fellow award. Student entering the Master of Science in Accounting program receive support to not only offset the cost of graduate education, but to also embark upon preparation for the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) exam. During 2020, over \$13,000 was awarded to students.

The Association for the Advancement of Collegiate Business Schools, AACSB International, requires accounting programs to provide assessment measures of impact. At Michigan Tech, we are pleased to report that our accounting program ranked T2nd for small programs in the nation with a CPA exam pass rate of 88.5% (national average – 52.9%). Our students also achieved the highest average passing score in this category, at 83.9. The scholarship support we are able to provide to high caliber, motivated students has without question contributed to this achievement which has garnered our accounting program national attention. More importantly, the scholarships have a direct impact on our students' ability to realize their professional goals.

Curriculum Development

Curriculum development efforts in the areas of technology and accounting analytics also continued during the past year. The majority of incoming accounting students have selected to pursue the undergraduate degree in accounting with a concentration in data analytics, and we



conferred our first certificates in the graduate program in the areas of accounting analytics and forensic investigation. Students progressing through the accounting curriculum engage in applied, experiential learning exercises and projects that involve data preparation, visualization, and analysis, thus providing a robust, contemporary educational experience.

Support from the Robinson fellowship has allowed us to also afford students the opportunity to demonstrate these skills in national competitions. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic precluded attendance at such events during this academic year, but funding has been and will continue to be provided for future competitions.

Faculty Professional Development

A final area supported by the Ed and Betty Robinson Faculty Fellow award is faculty development. I was able to continue participation in advanced analytics seminars online this past academic year that allow me to enhance research projects and ensure providing contemporary classroom experiences that best prepare our students to embark on their professional careers.

An example of a research project impacted by the Robinsons' support is an ongoing effort with finance faculty at Michigan Tech and Northeastern University to isolate specific components of operating liability leverage in an effort to better understand both its composition and impact on stock pricing.