Accounting Challenge Brings Students to SIU Carbondale

On Friday February 10th, Accounting Society members helped make the 14th annual Accounting Challenge at the SIUC Student Recreation Center a huge success. Led by Scott Polczynski, an Accounting Society officer, Accounting Society members along with other SIUC students setup materials, welcomed high school students, and helped them find their way through the day’s events. They were also responsible for answering any questions that the students may have had about Southern Illinois University Carbondale or more specifically the Accounting program. The event brought nearly 400 high school prospective Accounting students, almost 50 more students than last year, from across 23 different schools.

High school students were tested on their Accounting skills through written testing, as well as their abilities to think outside the box and beyond through a creative activity that Larry Busch, associate professor emeritus from the SIU Carbondale School of Art and Design, created. Written tests accounted for 40% of each teams score and were broken down into Accounting 1 and Advanced Accounting, whereas the challenge encompassed the other 60%. Students This year, the creative test was to create a rocket out of two pieces of paper, two straws, two cotton pads, two pipe cleaners and a piece of tape, that would fly the farthest out of an air gun. Even with some of the most brilliant minds from each school, some rockets barely made it out of the air tube, while one launched around 78 feet across the gym. With trophies for schools, scholarships for students if they choose to go to SIUC, and Accounting glory at stake, only a few proved worthy of absolute Accounting greatness. In the end, Nashville High School and Flora High School took 1st place in their respective categories, and students were awarded as a whole in the amount of 4250 dollars.

Once again, we thank our very own Scott Polczynski, a past participate of the event, for putting together the entire event, Larry Busch for providing the creative portion of the contest, SIUC for letting us use the recreation center, the numerous other Accounting Society members that graciously volunteered in order to promote the Accounting profession, as well as SIUC’s Accounting program, and finally the participants. By opening up our campus to the brightest Accounting students in the area, and providing incentive for them to stay, we hope to admit as many of these fine individuals to continue the great legacy of the Accounting department at Southern Illinois University Carbondale.
Our mission is to provide an organization that facilitates networking opportunities to obtain leadership, team building, and organizational skills for its members. We encourage service involvement to the community, university, and one another.

Mission Statement

HINT: Professional meetings are designed for you to network, so do it! Whether you are a Senior or Freshman, network with recruiters and other students. Fellow students can be mentors now, and often will become recruiters after graduation.

SIUC Sends 22 to IIA Student Night in St. Louis

On February 16, a bus full of Accounting Society students dressed in professional attire left the SIUC campus in Carbondale in order to attend the Institute of Internal Auditors Student Night in St. Louis, Mo.. The evening began with “speed networking,” which encompassed Auditors from the companies represented moving from table to table of students giving students the opportunity to network with as many professionals as possible in a short amount of time. Being a Auditor specific event, this proved very helpful to students who had an interest in IT Auditing. Some of the companies who attended include: Deloitte, Ernst & Young, MEMC Electronic Materials, Inc., PWC, Rubin Brown, and Brown Smith Wallace.

After the speed networking portion of the evening concluded, a panel of professional Auditors with vast amounts of experience in private and public Auditing were brought to the front of the room, and students were able to ask the panel anything about the Auditing profession. Questions varied from what certifications highly sought after for new hires, to the hiring outlook in the Auditing profession, to what their most interesting experiences were during their careers. Jim Cali, an Adjunct Professor who teaches Forensic Accounting at SIUC, was one of the panelists, and explained that one of his most interesting cases involved a professional fraudster who unfortunately took money from a church by taking a leadership rule that put him in charge of construction, convinced leadership to give him the money in order to purchase land, and then used that money to help bolster a company he bought for the sole purpose of tricking investors to give him money in a separate fraudulent scheme. While in the end he was caught for the church scheme, little money made its way back to the church, and as a result, the church fell emotionally, spiritually, and physically apart. Some of the other panelists had some more positive stories, and were able to comment about their experiences before, during, and after the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 went into full swing. Students then networked again prior to departure, and arrived back into Carbondale late Thursday evening.

Thanks goes out to the IIA Chapter in St. Louis for hosting a great event, to all the companies and their employees who gave up their night to accommodate students, to the panel for being open to questions about their experiences, to Ed O’Donnell for taking care of all the SIUC students, and finally to the SIUC Accounting department for providing travel necessary in order to give students the opportunity to go to such a wonderful networking event.

Got a comment or a suggestion?
Please email either Accounting Society at acctsoc@business.siu.edu or the President of Accounting Society, Joseph Reisterer, at reistrrj@siu.edu!
Phone: 618.453.2289 Fax:618.453.1411