Emerging Leader – Mentor Program

We are offering an Emerging Leader course for students enrolled on the Fergus Falls campus of M State. This new opportunity will connect our local college students to the community and businesses. As a part of the program, Chamber Members will have the opportunity to mentor a student who will gain real-world experience and earn college credit. Our goal is to retain and attract a quality workforce with some leadership knowledge. The Emerging Leader course (LEAD1000) will give students exposure to Fergus Falls businesses, the broader community, and local connections as they transition to the workforce. Businesses and Non-Profit agencies may apply to be a mentor.

Mentor Responsibilities:

• Offer students:
  o A full working experience including high level business interactions
  o Allow student to spend time with different people in the organization, demonstrating the correlation of roles and leadership within
  o Social experiences and skills-building in a business atmosphere
  o Show the value of networking and being connected
  o Practice professional communication: phone, email
  o Opportunity to attend a board, staff, civic club, or committee meeting
  o Practice simple etiquette for lunch/dinner meetings
  o Potential “hands-on” learning environments

• Guidelines:
  o The student is not a volunteer or employee. This program offers experiential learning
  o Relationship needs to remain as a business relationship with clear boundaries
  o Be respectful and able to work with cultural differences
    ▪ Most students will be 18-20 years old
  o Be aware of company’s privacy policies and where students will be engaged

Benefits of Participation:

• Students
  ▪ Professional opportunities beyond graduation
  ▪ Feel a connection to the community
  ▪ Gain real world experiences and hard to teach “soft skills”
  ▪ Better transition to community and workforce
  ▪ Learn what energizes them and what drags them down (likes/dislikes)

• Businesses
  ▪ Community service opportunity
  ▪ Potential to find a well-matched employee after mentorship
  ▪ Make a personal connection and positive impact on a student and future leader

• M State reaches the goal of more in-depth community connection
Emerging Leader – Mentor Program Details

Business Profile Information (“Sell yourself” in a 1 page summary):
- Short Business Description
- Careers offered, salary ranges & education requirements (not necessarily current openings)
- When is mentoring available: days of week and hours
- Requirements such as dress code (closed-toe shoes, long pants)
- What do you hope to gain as a mentor?
- Share a leadership experience anecdote or story? How has leadership impacted your career?
- Optional 1-2 minute video
- Submit to Lisa Workman, Fergus Falls Chamber (lworkman@fergusfalls.com) by December 30, 2016.

Mentorship Experience Timeline (Business Focus):
- December 30, 2016 – Mentor Profiles DUE to the Chamber
- January 9, 2017 – 1st Class meeting, 3:30-4:20pm – class syllabus to be shared with mentors
- January 23, 2017 – “Speed Networking” chance for students to meet potential mentors
- January 30, 2017 – Mentors notified of student match, mentorship experience begins
- February 6–April 28, 2017 – Mentorship Experience session (approximately 2.5 hours/week)
- March 13-17, 2017 – Spring Break
- TBD – “Final Event” – social/networking/etiquette event
- May 1-5, 2017 – Finals Week, Program Evaluation

LEAD1000 Course Description (2 credits): The emerging leader course allows students to understand leadership concepts, strategies and skills in a workplace setting. The student will practice workplace skills and self-reflection in preparation for a leadership position in a workplace or a community. The student will be assigned a business mentor and will spend 32 hours in a business or non-profit environment and 16 hours in the classroom. This course is designed to enhance the student’s ability to function as an effective community leader.

Competencies:
1. Describe the components of effective leadership in the workplace.
2. Demonstrate appropriate workplace behaviors.
3. Differentiate between effective and ineffective leadership strategies.
4. Describe the importance of leadership in workplace and community effectiveness.
5. Increase self-awareness through the exploration of leadership values and beliefs.
6. Understand individual strengths and how they apply in team, leadership, and community settings.

Instructor: Ramona Caswell, Chemistry Professor (ramona.caswell@minnesota.edu, 218-736-1597)
EMERGING LEADERS COURSE

Are you ready to be a leader?

Gain real-life leadership experience, mentoring and an opportunity to see a business or organization from the “inside” by registering for the LEAD Emerging Leaders course on the Fergus Falls campus.

Through LEAD Emerging Leaders, students have the opportunity to:

- Interact with business and community leaders
- Experience leadership in action
- Learn about career opportunities in Fergus Falls

More than two dozen Fergus Falls business and community leaders have already volunteered to mentor students. Students will spend 32 hours with their mentor and 16 hours in the classroom.

Registration is now being accepted for the LEAD Emerging Leaders course, which will meet Mondays during Spring Semester 2017 from 3:30 to 4:20 p.m. Students can register for LEAD1000.