

[News](#)[Athletics](#)[Kudos](#)[Carleton in  
the News](#)[• Features •](#)[Audio/Video](#)

August 24, 2005

## Carleton Initiates Entrepreneurship Program With Local Businesses

Carleton and the town of Northfield have traditionally played distinct roles: students learn in the classrooms, and make purchases downtown. Not anymore. With the new College Board of Business Consultants (CBBC), local businesses are teaming up with area college students to provide opportunities to practice business and enterprise in the real world. The CBBC, which includes seven Carleton students, five St. Olaf students, and representation from a host of local businesses, will begin its activities in the fall.



[view larger  
image  
\(50 Kb\)](#)

The students, once paired with local businesses, will receive a number of assignments as the year progresses. The first will be spending three hours a week researching the partner company's needs and suggesting ways for the company to improve. The advantages are visible for both the students and the local businesses. The students get real world business experience, and the partner companies receive new suggestions and input.

Although the program has yet to begin, local businesspeople and participating students are optimistic. Rick Estenson is vice-president of the First Bank of Northfield, the institution in charge of coordinating the program. He sees the CBBC as benefiting the students, local

### Related Sites:

[The Media Relations Office](#)[About Carleton](#)[Campus Events Calendar](#)

### Search Carleton News

  
[Go](#)

businesses, and the community. He also believes the program encourages volunteerism. "Students are not receiving pay or credit," he says, "[and] an opportunity to get out of the books and into the real world."

That real world outlook is precisely what Robert Will, Carleton's Raymond Plank Professor Emeritus of Incentive Economics, was looking for when he imagined a more hands-on method of teaching enterprising students about business. Now an active member of and advisor to the CBBC, he has been working with Christine Oatis-Skinner, director of Carleton's career center, to make the program a reality for Carleton students. In collaboration with the career center, Will helped build the program into its current collaborative framework and will continue to advise the Carleton students as the program builds momentum.

As one of the seven Carleton students selected for the program, Ethan Singer '07 is preparing to immerse himself in the world of local business. As an economics major with an interest in business, Singer was attracted to the program as "a great opportunity to get involved with the local business community, and to hopefully acquire some skills that will be useful later, both in my classes and after Carleton."

The nascent CBBC sought student board members through a rigorous application process. For every Carleton student in the program, another student was turned away. This competition ensured that the students involved in the program were sufficiently committed to the program. Resumes and interviews in consultation with local businesses helped whittle the group of Carleton applicants down to the final seven. The selected students include Singer, Tim Blaha '06, Isil Canar '07, Doug Lind '07, Oyebanke Oyeyinka '07, Brandon Sun '07 and Steve Vilendrer '07.

*Written by Paul Caine '08*

[Text-only/Printer-friendly version](#)

[Back to Features](#)

### **Contact Information**

**Joe Hargis**

Associate Vice President for External Relations  
Leighton Hall, Room 412  
One North College Street  
Northfield, MN 55057

**Office:** (507) 646-4327

**Fax:** (507) 646-5196

**e-mail:** [jhargis@acs.carleton.edu](mailto:jhargis@acs.carleton.edu)

Last updated on August 31, 2005.

**XML**