



July 24, 2017

New LCOB Building

Thanks to the visionary leadership of President Gilbert, we now have a real opportunity to start exploring a new building for the Lewis College of Business. I have toured two possible sites opposite Old Main, and three possible sites in Downtown Huntington. While the sites close to campus would be new construction, the downtown buildings would have to be refurbished. There is strong interest amongst our board and alumni in supporting our move to a state-of-the-art facility. I need to hear your preliminary preference and views on the pros and cons of locating ourselves next to campus versus downtown. Please think of students, transportation, parking, visibility, flexibility, using campus resources, business connections, growth potential, etc. when evaluating the options.

Marshall Incubator

We are exploring a Business Incubator to be launched by Marshall University. As one of the task force members, I recently toured The Innovation Depot in Birmingham, AL. I have also been familiar with the Georgia Tech ATDC in Atlanta and the Georgia Southern Incubator in Statesboro. Our proposed incubator would serve as a complement to our existing accelerator in RCBI. There are two main questions that I came back with: a) What would be the industry focus of our incubator? (At Innovation Depot, it is Healthcare Tech, FinTech, and B2B services). b) What would be the business model for the incubator, given the eco-system that pre-exists in Huntington? Thoughts are welcome.

Design for Delight (D4D): Innovating for Impact – Intuit HQ Visit

From June 25 to 27, Intuit hosted an all-expenses paid visit of 12 Marshall students and 6 faculty to their headquarters and Silicon Valley. The students were the winning team members of Design for Delight (D4D): Innovating for Impact. D4D was a collaborative program between Intuit and Marshall University where Intuit Innovation Experts taught their innovation process to Marshall student teams from many different majors. The student teams applied the process to innovate solutions for West Virginia's most significant challenges: substance abuse, youth education, and technology. They presented their solutions to Brad Smith, Jennifer Garner, and Chad Pennington at the D4D finale where 3 winning teams were declared: 42 Peaks, Appalachian Action, and Seven Degrees. The Silicon Valley tour included visits to the campuses of Intuit, Google and Facebook. Special thanks to Brad Smith and his wonderful team at Intuit - Izzy Rogner, Jeff Zias, Deanna Montesero, and Melissa Sisk. Highlights included conversation with Brad Smith and Scott Cook, SWAG bag gifts of Intuit branded gear (i.e. Nike bag, journal, wallet, portable cell battery charger, etc.), tour of San Francisco, and outstanding hospitality.