



The Lewis College of Business

## Monday Morning Memo

Highlighting the achievements, news, and upcoming events from the Lewis College of Business.

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## January 29th, 2026

### Welcome Back!

After this most recent winter storm, we are back on campus and ready to dive back into the semester once again!

### Six MIS 200 Students place in the top 10 in West Virginia for the Fall Qualifier of the 2026 Microsoft Office Specialist U.S. National Championship

The winners of the 2025 Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) West Virginia State Championship Fall Qualifier have been announced by Certiport, a Pearson Business, the leading provider of performance-based IT certification exams that accelerate people's academic and career opportunities.

To compete in the Fall Qualifier, students aged 13 to 22 were eligible to participate in one of six competition tracks by submitting a qualified, passing score on the MOS Word, Excel®, or PowerPoint® certification exams by December 19, 2025.

The first-place students will get to represent West Virginia at the upcoming 2026 MOS U.S. National Championship in Nashville, Tennessee. During this event, they will compete in their exam track, network with other top students from around the United States and celebrate their certification success. One winner per track will be named the U.S. National Champion and earn a trip to represent the United States and compete in the **2026 MOS World Championship** in Anaheim, California.

Congratulations to our excellent students in Dr. Tracy Christofero's MIS 200 class on this accomplishment, we are beyond thrilled to celebrate this milestone with them and to support them on their future endeavors. The following students have placed during the Fall Qualifier:

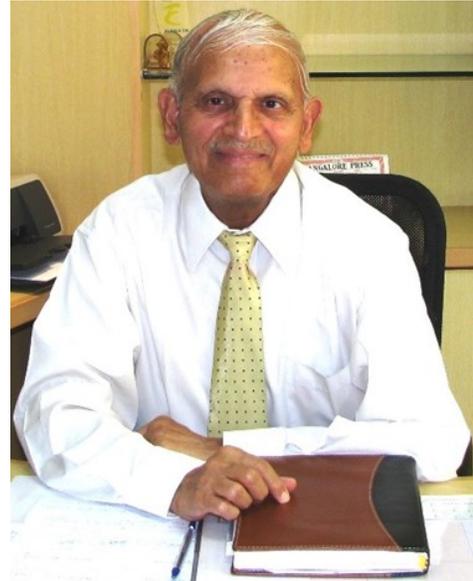
- 1st place - ta Jeter - Microsoft Excel (Office 2019)
- 3rd place - Naquan Crowder - Microsoft Excel (Office 2019)
- 4th place - Paul Hutson III - Microsoft Excel (Office 2019)
- 6th place - Mason Onate - Microsoft Excel (Office 2019)
- 8th place - Mikailin Warren - Microsoft Excel (Office 2019)
- 9th place - Sid Kaba - Microsoft Excel (Office 2019)

## In Remembrance of Dr. Akkihal

Dr. Ramchandra G. Akkihal, a native of India, passed away on December 18, 2025, in Dharwad at the age of 89.

Dr. Akkihal served as Professor of Economics in the Lewis College of Business (LCOB) at Marshall University from 1968 to 2012. During his 44-year tenure at Marshall, he was a highly respected scholar in economics and business and a beloved teacher admired by generations of students.

He served as Director of the Marshall MBA Program for 13 years and as Director of the Bhavan (India) MBA Program for the Lewis College of Business—the first Marshall degree program offered overseas. In recognition of his outstanding service and achievements, Dr. Akkihal received numerous honors, including the LCOB Distinguished Service Award (2000), Graduate Advisor of the Year Award (2001), Marshall University Distinguished Service Award (2004), LCOB Graduate Faculty of the Year Award (2004–05), and the Carolyn B. Hunter Distinguished Faculty Service Award from the Marshall University Alumni Association (2009).



After retiring from Marshall in 2012, Dr. Akkihal continued his lifelong commitment to economics and business education in his hometown of Dharwad, India. He served as the Founding Chairman of Akkihal College, further extending his educational legacy.

Dr. Akkihal devoted his life to advancing economics and business education both at Marshall University and in India. He was a dear friend, mentor, and role model to countless colleagues and students around the world. He will be deeply missed.

## Looking to Hire?

Looking to bring fresh talent into your team? Lewis College of Business students are eager to make an impact through internships! Connect with motivated interns by reaching out to [Kesling8@marshall.edu](mailto:Kesling8@marshall.edu). Let's create opportunities together!

## Looking for a Job?

### [Merchant Services Specialist - West Virginia State Treasurer's Office](#)

\$45 - \$50k / year + Benefits

Full-Time

On-Site, based in Charleston, WV

### [Junior Business Analyst - State Electric Supply](#)

Paid + Benefits

Full-Time

On-Site, based in Huntington, WV

### [Management Trainee - Omni Soldato](#)

\$50 - \$60k / year

Full-Time

On-Site, based in Charleston, WV

**[Operations Planning Manager - Vertiv Manufacturing](#)**

Paid

Full-Time

On-Site, based in Waterville, OH

**[Staff Accountant - Lowe & Associates, PLLC](#)**

\$40 - \$60k / year + PTO

Full-Time

On-Site, based in Milton, WV

For more information contact Andrew Kesling at [Kesling8@marshall.edu](mailto:Kesling8@marshall.edu)

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