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## **Department of Nonprofit Administration Students Win National Award**

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## DEPARTMENT OF NONPROFIT ADMINISTRATION STUDENTS WIN NATIONAL AWARD

April 16, 2015

Lindenwood University's Department of Nonprofit Administration students and a faculty member were the recipient of two recent awards presented by the Small Business Institute® (SBI).

A team of Lindenwood University undergraduate students (Valerie Eaton, Alicia Barcomb, Rebecca Tungate, Samantha Zimmermann and Kerry Dyer) placed third for its nonprofit strategic planning research project for the Lindenwood University Campus YMCA. A graduate-level team (Shirley Woodard, Jacklin Owens, Charles Turner, Court Buchannan, John Mertens, and Jacqueline White) won third place for its nonprofit budgeting and financial management research project for the Baobab People.

The Small Business Institute® academic conference took place in St. Pete Beach, Fla., Feb. 12-14. This year marked the 39th anniversary of SBI, a national organization dedicated to advancing entrepreneurial education amongst colleges and universities. The organization includes over 100 members who are actively involved in projects with small businesses, entrepreneurial firms, and other organizations in their communities and regions. Through its journals and annual conference, SBI is the only academic organization in the U.S. that focuses intently on student experiential learning in business.

This is the first year Lindenwood University students have received recognition from SBI, a significant achievement for both groups, said Dr. Patrick Walker, associate professor at Lindenwood's Department of Nonprofit Administration.

"Entrepreneurial thinking, research, and support are critical for small businesses and nonprofit organizations who seek to make sustainable impacts and community investments," Walker said. "Furthermore, this external validation further reinforces our collective commitment and dedication to the value of making the community part of the learning paradigm. While organizations benefit from free nonprofit business consulting, students apply lessons they've learned in the classroom.

In the end, the student teams deliver a comprehensive consulting document to their respective clients, along with an oral presentation. Walker said the students, under the supervision of faculty, make significant contributions to communities by providing nonprofit organizations with tools that enable them to deliver more services to many more community stakeholders.


Lindenwood University's award-winning undergraduate and graduate programs in nonprofit administration offers a BA degree, BA/MA degree, traditional and online executive MA degree, and a minor in nonprofit administration.

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