

# The DeVoe Division of Business Newsletter

## February 2023

### Meet the Firms

On February 16, the DeVoe Division of Business hosted Meet the Firms night welcoming 22 accounting firms or organizations. Students from IWU, Grace, Trine, Goshen, and St. Francis were able to networking with CPAs from northern Indiana and as far south as Nashville, TN. It's a wonderful time for students to start meeting with firms and making connections for their future. Finance was added this year in a separate room with Brotherhood Mutual, Lake City Bank, Northwestern Mutual, Auto-Owners Insurance Group, and the Ronald Blue Trust. The first ever Virtual Meet the Firms night kicked off in partnership with Rangy Thomas, an entrepreneur, investor, and advisor to a dynamic portfolio of companies in the faith, technology, and entertainment markets, including co-founder of [Servant.io](https://www.servant.io). Virtual Interviews were held for selected students interested in the companies.

**Meet the Firms**  
February 16th 7:00-9:00  
Located in Student Center Banquet Halls

TRINE UNIVERSITY  
UNIVERSITY OF SAINT FRANCIS  
GRACE COLLEGE  
GOSHEN COLLEGE

blue  
SOMERSET CPAs AND ADVISORS  
LBMCC  
EY  
FORV/S  
C&M CLAYTON & HORSBERY  
RSM  
BCBCC  
DWD  
Crowe  
DeVoe  
DEVOE DIVISION OF BUSINESS  
INDIANA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY  
BKD CPAs & Advisors  
Pile CPAs  
Baden Gage & Schroeder LLC  
SLATTERY & HOLMAN P.C.  
KRUGGEL LAWTON CPA  
ksm CPAs & Advisors  
pinion  
CAPINCROUSE  
DOZ  
IN CPA SOCIETY



## Business Community Feedback

It's important for us to ask our business community questions about what the needs are in the workforce. We had over 25 employers on campus for Meet the Firms in February, so we asked them the following questions: What are the most important soft skills that our students need to know to flourish? What are the most underdeveloped skills you see with recent graduates? What are the areas in which first year employees need to improve?

Here are the most common responses:

### Soft Skills:

Ability and willingness to ask questions

Communication: How to lead a conversation, Efficient verbal and written, Networking skills

Strategic and critical thinking

Eagerness to learn

Respect for confidentiality

Active listening

Sense of humor

Can handle feedback

Eye contact

### Underdeveloped Skills:

Step outside of comfort zone

Strong work ethic

Excel

Step back and look at the big picture

Confidence

Intiative with career goals

Emotional Intelligence

Solving problems independently

How to professionally send an email and answer the phone

### First Year Improvement:

Technical skills

Ability to adjust to a fast-paced environment

Preparing well

Motivation

Priorities

Patience in being in lower level positions to learn

Vary their internships for experience

Self organizaiton

Follow through

Be engaged and present

Project management

Note taking

Research to problem solve