The Synergies of PACCE

Synergy = the interaction of two or more organizations to produce a combined effect greater than the sum of their separate effects.

PACCE has launched new business ventures, undergraduate research projects, medical inventions and jobs.

Here are a few examples of the synergies of PACCE from the 2015 Spring Semester:

A new business venture...

Lauren J. Gaikowski, a UW-Platteville junior who’s majoring in Sustainable and Renewable Energy Systems, pursues the development of a solar-powered surveillance system for wildlife rehabilitation. “I think this is a viable business idea and I look forward to gaining even more experience by the groundwork that’s been created through this Four Lakes/University of WI-Platteville/PACCE partnership,” says Gaikowski. Read more.

An undergraduate research project...

Two UW-Platteville students research the breeding patterns and locations of endangered cricket frogs in Southwest Wisconsin to enhance Wisconsin’s DNR’s efforts to protect the region’s wetlands. Dr. John Peterson, biology department faculty member, notes, “Students are dealing with a real world problem and trying to solve it. We can tell them in class what it’s about, but until you actually do it, you don’t really know what it is”. Read more.

An invention...

Two senior engineering physics majors, Maria Smiles & Geoffrey Ament, spent their final semester on a PACCE-funded project to produce an assisted clarinet embouchure. Their invention enabled their community partner to play her instrument again after being diagnosed with Bell’s palsy. See more.

A manufacturing solution...
As their senior design project, mechanical engineering students partnered with SSI Technologies in Janesville WI to investigate an affordable solution to a production challenge they faced. PACCE funding enabled them to create a prototype of the invention which will ultimately save the company tens of thousands of dollars each year. Read more.

A passion and a job...

Dr. Edina Haslauer’s “Ethnic & Gender Equity in Education” course requires that students complete 20 hours of community service. After working with these non-profit organizations, some students have been offered jobs because they became so passionate about the work they were doing for that partner. “Students often times come from white middle-class families and once they encounter diversity, they learn not only about others, but also about their own cultural assumptions and beliefs,” says Dr. Haslauer. Read more.

A social justice experience...

UW-Platteville students in Dr. Amy Nemmetz’s “Victimology and Restorative Justice” course helped to facilitate the restorative justice gardening courses with inmates at the Prairie du Chien Correctional Institution. Led by Brittany Fitzgerald, a senior criminal justice major, the gardening and restorative justice curriculum was written by Matt Lochowitz, a recent graduate of UW-Platteville’s undergraduate criminal justice program and Keith Lucas, a graduate student pursuing a Master of Science in criminal justice at UW-Platteville. “My experience at PDCI has been one of the best opportunities I could have asked for from UW-Platteville”, says Fitzgerald. Read more.

An improved product design...

As their senior design project, mechanical engineering students partnered with VibeTech One to re-design their non-weight-bearing rehabilitation machine. Originally designed to help astronauts who typically lose approximately 20% of their bone mass after a year in space, it has since been applied to nursing home patients. Read more.

Confidence in their talents...
Design for the Greater Good was developed by Greg Nelson, assistant professor at UW-Platteville. The program helps nonprofit organizations who may not have the resources to hire a design service. "For me, the most rewarding part is that I get to see the students gain confidence in their skills," he said. "When I tell them that they are going to have to go out and find a community partner they tend to be a little nervous about that. I like to see that nervousness fall away and watch them become confident. I think that by the end of this they generally do feel more confident about their work and about themselves”.

Read more.

Recognition among their peers...

With the collaborative efforts of an advanced computer aided design methods class, an iron casting class, and a computer numerical control class, UW-Platteville students were able to design and create a series of metal parts to restore the window systems at Taliesin, an estate located in Iowa County, Wisconsin. The structure was designed by highly revered, American architect Frank Lloyd Wright in the early 1900s. UW-Platteville Industrial Studies Professors Dr. Kyle Metzloff, Eric Rimel and Joseph Gray, along with their students, took home top honors at this year’s Midwestern American Foundry Society Casting of the Year competition. $2,500 was awarded to the UW-Platteville AFS student chapter. Read more.

A desire to serve others...

Ten UW-Platteville students had the opportunity to learn about, build and implement renewable energy technologies while immersing themselves in the culture of a rural community in Nicaragua. At least two students came away with a renewed commitment to serving others. “I have always wanted to do short-term missions when I get out of school,” said Shane Dennis, a civil engineering major. “Since I really enjoyed this trip it was a big encouragement for me to keep going in this direction.” Read more.

An enhancement of the environment...
A group of UW-Platteville students partnered with the community of Brodhead, WI, to design a 16- to 20-foot-tall undershot water wheel that will be used to generate lighting along the Mill Race section of the Sugar River leading to the proposed covered bridge of Putnam Park. The water wheel will be a component of Brodhead’s Pearl Island Recreational Corridor project, designed to attract tourists to the area and beautify the park areas surrounding a three-mile stretch of the river. Read more.

Research findings presented locally...

University of Wisconsin-Platteville history students presented their research to students, faculty and community members at the History Student Research Symposium. Cody Grabhorn, a senior history and political science major, presented his research about the Seven Years’ War (1754-63). “With these skills, I have a better understanding of how to find a subject’s relevance and importance in today’s society and how to pass on that understanding to others. It is important that other history students explore and investigate history so they not only can find the subject they enjoy, but they also can have a broader understanding of humanity and the diverse world we live in.” Grabhorn, who served as a PACCE Intern for the Rollo Jamison Museum, has been accepted to a master’s program at the Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, VA. Read more.

Research findings presented regionally...

UW-Platteville students in a biogeography course taught by Dr. Evan Larson, assistant professor of geography at UW-Platteville, attended the 2015 Midwest Fire Conference held in Dubuque IA. Students gathered information they will use in a PACCE project establishing baseline ecological conditions in Memorial Park to help inform restoration following a tornado that tore through Platteville in June 2014. The University of Wisconsin-Platteville was well represented at the regional conference which drew nearly 400 professionals, landowners, students and volunteers who shared an interest in managing and restoring prairie and oak savanna habitats across the Midwest. Read more.

A legacy...
Three UW-Platteville seniors were invited to create a piece of art to celebrate UW-Platteville’s upcoming 150th Anniversary. One of those students, Robert Jinkins, expressed his excitement for the celebration and for the opportunity to leave his mark on campus. "I know that by making these pieces for the university, I am leaving something tangible which will hopefully inspire future students and help educate them – through the language of art – of the culture and history of the University of Wisconsin-Platteville". Read more.