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## CESR Semi-Annual Update: Message from the Director

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### A Warm Summer Hello to Friends of CESR!

Once again, I am delighted to provide you with my half-yearly update on CESR's activities. We have had an outstanding six months, guided by our mission to build the values-driven, socially conscious leaders of tomorrow. Our progress toward our goals only has been possible through the extraordinary efforts of our faculty and staff as well as the invaluable support we receive from our advisory boards, donors, and friends!



### Center Developments

CESR has become increasingly intertwined into the fabric of our school, an outcome that is essential if we are to impact the DNA of all Leeds graduates. We now share faculty members and cross-list four courses with several of the School's divisions, we feature CESR/Sustainability-related research by Leeds faculty, and we are involved in raising and granting funds for research! As we strive to continue offering top quality classes and extend CESR's programs and visibility, we are excited to welcome three new members of our team. Liz Stapp, an attorney and the second highest-rated teacher at the University of Denver, has joined our faculty. With over four years of teaching experience and curriculum development in CESR-related areas, Liz will bring excitement and energy to the classroom. We are also fortunate to have Marilyn Decalo and Colleen Seltz join our staff as program coordinators. Marilyn has had an extensive career in the Office of the President and possesses outstanding relationship-building and outreach skills, which will be essential as CESR seeks to have an impact on the University. Colleen, who also has significant experience in higher education, has remarkable talents in social media and already has given us a strong presence on Facebook and Twitter.

As you might expect, students continue to be at the center of CESR's activities. We are now hosting the student Net Impact Club in the CESR office and we have established a Junior Advisory Board, consisting of recent graduates of Leeds. Finally, I am very excited to report that the Professional Mentorship Program (deftly coordinated by Katie Connor) now has nearly 400 students and over 200 mentors - more than quadrupled in size since 2009, and will be piloted in the MBA program next spring.

### Curricular Developments

CESR elective classes continue to be popular and oversubscribed, and instruction in our required classes continues to be rated extremely high. In fact, this year, 70 percent of our instructors were nominated for the coveted Joseph L. Frasca Award for Excellence in Teaching, and this percentage does not include a prior winner and a prior nominee! This fall we are offering a cutting edge, cross-listed class called "Privacy in the Age of Facebook," designed and to be taught by the award-winning Professor Kai Larsen from the Management and Entrepreneurship Division.

*"The critical thinking in this course is unmatched in this university."*

*"The classroom engagement is unbelievably high."*

*"Before this course, I was not really interested in Corporate Social Responsibility. However, your enthusiasm and passion for teaching this topic made me become interested in this material and I'm very grateful!"*

*Students in Business Applications of Social Responsibility*

Also in the fall, we are rolling out a substantial revision of Introduction to Business, where groups of 25 students in Friday classes will develop their own business plans, progressing along with material covered in lectures. Apparently our curricular efforts are memorable to our students; we were heartened to learn that Bloomberg Businessweek's survey of our graduating seniors revealed that 28 percent of those who answered the question, "What makes your school's business program unique?" indicated that it was CESR. The number one response!

### **Collaborations and Outreach**

CESR Associate Director Francy Milner has developed critical partnerships with the Social Enterprise Alliance and Social Venture Partners to find outlets for our students' interests in social entrepreneurship. As well, she has been instrumental in developing and supporting the Social Venture Track at the campus-wide New Venture Challenge Case Competition and has continued to forge cross-campus partnerships through SEED@CU (Social Entrepreneurship and Equitable Development). CESR also is partnering with Career Connections to help place our students in the less traditional career paths they seek.

*"Thank you for sharing your passion and knowledge with us. Prior to taking this class and especially now, I want to spend my time working in developing countries on sustainable development projects. All the guest speakers you have been able to bring in have had a huge effect on me as well!"*

*Student in Business Solutions for the Developing World*

Since we increasingly are being recognized as a leader in education on values and social responsibility, we are expanding our offerings beyond the Leeds student body. Business Applications of Social Responsibility (our junior-year class) will be offered to the University at large through the Continuing Education Program in the spring and we are in the process of designing program components for Executive Education at Leeds. Beyond local attention, my presentation to more than 175 deans and program directors from all over the world at The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) Conference, "Rethinking the MBA," in March was a special opportunity to share the great things we are doing at Leeds. While it pains me a little to watch myself on camera, a video of that presentation is available on our website. As well, requests for curriculum advice have multiplied; the other day I took just such a call with someone at the Indian School of Business and he commented that we had the most comprehensive program in values and social responsibility that he had discovered!

### **Communication Changes on the Horizon**

In order to provide you with more timely updates, multi-media links, and reports that are less densely packed with information, we have decided to replace this twice-yearly report with an e-newsletter starting this Fall. (Since we don't want to contribute to overflowing inboxes, please know that you will have the opportunity to opt out should you not be interested in receiving these updates.)

As always, I thank each and every one of you for your invaluable support of CESR. In our second year as a Center, we continue to strive towards financial self-sustainability and deeply appreciate every partner, financial or otherwise, in our vision for developing socially responsible business leaders. We look forward to reporting exciting developments on a more frequent basis.

Best Wishes,



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