

# Academy Scholars

## Entrepreneurship at MSM

At Mount St. Mary, students have many opportunities to develop their skills beyond the traditional classroom. In our entrepreneurship program, Academy Scholars, students participate in a hands-on curriculum through which they build and run their own small businesses, which allows them to learn and engage in creativity in an exciting way. MSM student-businesses include both real products and virtual businesses, and are affiliated with two international programs: Students for the Advancement of Global Entrepreneurship (SAGE) and Virtual Enterprises International. Our entrepreneurs have sold products locally, regionally and nationally. They have participated in business workshops across the United States and in Canada, Europe and Asia. They have also competed successfully both nationally and internationally, winning U.S. and global honors for their work as young entrepreneurs. Collectively, they have networked with fellow teen and adult entrepreneurs, corporate and nonprofit executives, academics, elected officials, and international leaders. Most importantly, they have developed the creativity, leadership, problem-solving and communication skills that are so vital to building an interesting, high-impact life and career.

## Our Process

Freshmen in the Academy Scholars program engage in a series of individual and small-group projects designed to help them explore creativity applied across different fields. They also develop teamwork and problem-solving skills, which prepares them for the spring of freshman year and the beginning of their sophomore year, when they begin building their own business concepts. In this start-up stage, students identify ideas they would like to explore, problems they would like to solve, and issues they wish to address. They work individually and in small teams to brainstorm solutions, and then develop a service, product or program around those solutions. Students with start-up ideas have access to a mini-grant fund that helps them explore and experiment with concepts. If they move forward with their business idea, they can also apply for more funding through our mini-loan program.

Ultimately, students make a choice during sophomore year to either start their own business or social service project, join an existing business, or participate in our virtual business program.

## Exploring Start-ups Through SAGE

Over the past few years, Mount St. Mary students have started more than a dozen businesses, including our in-school café, Thunder Zone, a social marketing firm, an essential oils-based room spray company, a publishing company that produced a cognitive coloring book for Alzheimer's patients, two nationally recognized student bakeries, a record label and concert promotions business, a canine treats and dog-toy maker, a leadership program, and a nonprofit that collects clothing for women in need, among several others.

These real-life businesses, if they choose, are able to compete each spring in the national SAGE competition. SAGE, which stands for Students for the Advancement of Global Entrepreneurship, is a California-based nonprofit that supports student entrepreneurs around the world. One of the key elements of SAGE is building businesses around the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

MSM student-businesses have competed at SAGE for the last six years, winning five national championships and placing as high as third internationally at the SAGE World Cup. They have presented and networked nationally in San Francisco, Sacramento, Las Vegas and Pittsburgh, and competed internationally in South Korea, the Philippines and Ukraine.



We believe in you.

## Engaging in Corporate Work with Virtual Enterprises

^ %o Š %o < ††€ %o %o •ˆŠOE † •†† † †† † %o < ... ††Ž f †† f ... „f „ † † < „ ...†%o„ †%o %o „ †%o „ ... Ž † † † „ < f †† ...† † ...†%o ^ %o Š %o < †† < ... †%o„ †%o f %o %o f < %o %o † † < „ f%o † f ‘† † † † f%o Ž%o † † Ž ff %o ...“ f „ † † f †%o %o ... „€ ,%o„ †%o † %o f f %o „† < „ f%o %o %o “ †%o ...† %o%o „

€ ,€ˆŠOE %o †† f ††%o %o < f „ ...%o %o < %o f %o • Ž “ Š†† f „ %o < „ f † Š †f %o † † „ Ž %o †f %o † „ < „ f%o ‘† %o ˆŠOE †%o †%o f† < †† < Ž “ f † f %o † „ f < %o„ ... †%o %o < †%o„ %o • f %o † Ž „ %o f %o %o%o ... - %o † %o - † † ~ ™ < %o%o ™ %o ‘† %o %o %o † %o„ †%o † ff ††%o f%o < „ f%o † „ † † †%o %o f Ž%o %o < , ŠŠ†%o„ %o %o < †† %o%o „

• “ %o f %o ... „ † ... f < f „ • - • †† † f ... - „ †%o %o ˆŠOE < ... † > † ... † „ ™ %o Ž %o %o ... < † • - • †† %o < „ † Ž %o „ † ... † † † † < „ „ f f

## Building Skills and Connections

‘† •%o• Ž Ž € %o %o € †%o„ %o %o < †f ††%o %o „ < ... „ “ ... < „ f%o „ † f † † < ... „ • < „ ...%o ... %o„ %o ... Ž%o Ž f † ... f †† œ „ • < †† „ ...† %o %o † Ž † † † ... „ f† ... „ „ † „ ‘† † † %o %o ... †%o < † „ %o † † † %o † %o < † „ %o † † f† „ %o † ...† †%o † Ž%o “ „ • f „ , f† † f %o f%o † f „ „ ž „ • f %o † „ f < %o ™ Š • † Ž † Ž ™ ... †† f %o < † „ f Ž%o †%o %o < • < †%o „ † † f † † %o %o

f „ , f† ††%o„ †%o f %o ... %o ™ %o ~ „ < f †† †† †††%o %o .. f †%o ...%o „ < %o „ † ‘† † † %o < < %o %o %o < %o %o „ †† < f %o f %o < ...

‘† ... Ž f „ , f† ††%o < †%o„ †%o %o%o ... f %o < •† „ < %o „ f† Ÿ „ %o f %o %o %o † † † Ž ... .. < f †† %o i † ... %o „ † f

f i †%o † „ „ † ... „ ...%o < ... „ „ %o f† %o  
~ † f %o f%o • , † %o †† c † f „ ...