

9-21-2006

Leatherby Center for Entrepreneurship Rated Among Top in Nation

Chapman University Media Relations

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.chapman.edu/press_releases

 Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#), and the [Higher Education Administration Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Chapman University Media Relations, "Leatherby Center for Entrepreneurship Rated Among Top in Nation" (2006). *Chapman Press Releases 2003-2011*. Paper 299.

http://digitalcommons.chapman.edu/press_releases/299

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Chapman Press at Chapman University Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Chapman Press Releases 2003-2011 by an authorized administrator of Chapman University Digital Commons. For more information, please contact laughtin@chapman.edu.



Leatherby Center for Entrepreneurship Rated Among Top in Nation

ORANGE, Calif., Sept. 21, 2006 -- In a survey of more than 700 schools just released by The Princeton Review and *Entrepreneur* magazine, Chapman University was distinguished as one of the top schools for entrepreneurs. Chapman University ranks #15 nationally among undergraduate entrepreneurship programs in the survey for its success in a multitude of factors. The results of the survey, along with the analysis, appear in the October issue of *Entrepreneur*. *Entrepreneur* is the leading publication for empowering entrepreneurs worldwide to start and grow successful companies.

A number of criteria were factored in to evaluate Chapman University and other colleges and universities, including the entrepreneurial emphasis of the curriculum, mentoring, experiential learning, faculty credentials, and the success of graduating students and alumni. High-ranking schools demonstrated a commitment to practical, hands-on experiential learning to provide the skills that translate into real-world businesses.

Robert Franek, editorial director of Princeton Review Books, stated that students are looking for very clear and practical outcomes not only for what they're doing in the classroom, but also that their degree will work for them with those same practical-based outcomes once they graduate.

The mission of Chapman University is to provide personalized education of distinction that leads to inquiring, ethical, and productive lives as global citizens. Entrepreneurship opportunities are offered to graduate and undergraduate students by the Leatherby Center for Entrepreneurship and Business Ethics within the George L. Argyros School of Business and Economics.

The Leatherby Center for Entrepreneurship and Business Ethics was established in 1996 by entrepreneur and philanthropist Ralph W. Leatherby. The mission of the Leatherby Center for Entrepreneurship and Business Ethics is to promote entrepreneurial interests and the ethical behavior necessary to sustain them. The center offers courses, internships, mentoring, student organizations, alumni networking opportunities, and business plan assistance to students. The center also provides interns, seminars, information resources, and consulting teams to the Orange County business community.

A recent survey conducted by the Leatherby Center at Chapman University revealed that a high number of students had started businesses while still completing their undergraduate degree. Several of our students have seen parents, relatives, and their friends with entrepreneurial ventures and this has sparked their own desire to start businesses, states Dr. P. K. Shukla, director of the Leatherby Center for Entrepreneurship and Business Ethics.

Andrew Hinger, a senior at Chapman University, is serving as President of SIFE, the award-winning student entrepreneur organization at Chapman University. Hinger said, "Our professors and speakers share real-world experiences that we can apply to our own entrepreneurial ventures. He added, "With smaller class sizes, students get individual mentoring opportunities that are not

available at larger campuses.

We have an excellent entrepreneurial program at Chapman University. Our students have won individual and team-based awards at regional, national, and global entrepreneurship contests, states Dr. Shukla. A recent graduate, Mike Brown, started an on-line website, ModBargains.com, for purchasing automobile modification parts. With the rapid growth in sales and profits for his firm, he won the First Place Award: Western Region 2006 Global Student Entrepreneur of the Year." Brown is now a finalist for the Global First Place Award: 2006 Global Student Entrepreneur of the Year, Dr. Shukla added. An upcoming globally distributed book on successful businesses started by undergraduates, *Student Entrepreneurs: Giving Back*, will feature a chapter on Brown.

Our students prepare business plans, consult entrepreneurial clients, complete internships, learn from successful entrepreneurial speakers, and they are mentored, said Dr. Shukla. Orange County is one of the most dynamic and entrepreneurial areas of the nation.

Dr. Art Kraft, dean of the Argyros School of Business and Economics, said, Chapman University benefits from the support of business and community leaders serving on the Chapman boards of trustees and governors, the Argyros School's Board of Counselors and Corporate Partners, and the Leatherby Center Board of Advisors.

Chapman President James L Doti said, "This high ranking reflects credit not only upon Chapman University and Orange County, but also on the incredible legacy of Ralph Leatherby.

The Leatherby Center welcomes the Orange County business community to partner with them in preparing future entrepreneurial leaders. Contact the Leatherby Center at (714) 997-6817, shukla@chapman.edu, or www.chapman.edu/argyros.