Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) is back on NDSU’s campus thanks to the hard work of one College of Business student.

Casondra Rutschke is a senior from Zeeland, North Dakota, majoring in business administration and management, with minors in economics and managerial psychology. She participated in Future Business Leaders of America in high school and wanted to start PBL at NDSU so college students could continue to participate. PBL is the collegiate division of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA). The organization’s purpose is to bring business and education together to help students develop leadership, communication and teamwork skills. PBL offers opportunities for students to get involved in competitions, community service and leadership development programs that help prepare them for their careers after college.

Here are Rutschke’s thoughts on PBL:

**HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN INVOLVED IN FBLA/PBL?**

“I was active in the Future Business Leaders of America in my hometown of Zeeland, North Dakota, for four years where I served as chapter president for two terms. I had the opportunity to travel to four National Leadership Conferences where I was able to network with students from across the country while developing my personal and professional skills. After attending these conferences, I knew I wanted to study business and to someday find a career in upper management."

**WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO BRING PBL BACK TO NDSU’S CAMPUS?**

“PBL is the largest student-run organization in the country and one of the top 10 organizations as listed by the U.S. Department of Education. It is a great opportunity for students to get involved in the NDSU College of Business and to develop and demonstrate leadership, communication and teamwork skills through community service projects, fundraising activities and chapter officer positions. I also wanted to help students develop their professional and leadership skills so I took it upon myself to reactivate the NDSU Chapter of Phi Beta Lambda.”

**WHY SHOULD STUDENTS BECOME INVOLVED WITH PBL?**

“The goal of PBL is to bring together business and education in order to help students develop leadership, communication and teamwork skills, each of which can help students as we prepare for our professional careers and help us stand out when we apply for jobs. During a job interview, you can point to the leadership positions you held for the largest collegiate business student organization in the world. At the same time, you can discuss the academic competitions you entered and how you fared against the very best students in the nation.”

Miranda Letzring, NDSU’s PBL chapter treasurer, shared her experiences:

“I never joined FBLA in high school and I wish I would have. The opportunities this organization has presented me in the short time I have been a part of it have been amazing. It isn’t just about competing in events that simulate our future business environments, but the opportunity to make those business connections, grow as a community through service and learn technical and soft skills desired in today’s workplace. PBL has impacted my life by giving me a different outlook on where I am and my desired career path. I definitely feel that this organization is equipping me with skills needed in the workforce that are not always taught in a classroom. Joining PBL has been one of the best moves of my college career.”

Students do not need high school experience with FBLA to become a member of NDSU’s Phi Beta Lambda Chapter. For more information, please contact:

**Email:** ndsupbl@gmail.com

**National website:** www.fbla-pbl.org

**Facebook:** www.facebook.com/NDSUPBL
Area Business Professionals Mentor NDSU Students

College of Business students can build relationships with business professionals in Fargo thanks to a new mentorship program, now in its second year.

Faculty members Nancy Emerson, Paul Brown and adviser Tayt Rinehardt launched the program last spring. Sophomores applied to be paired with professionals for a semester to learn about careers, industries and day-to-day job responsibilities. It’s the kind of program that helps NDSU students successfully compete in the workforce. By meeting with professionals, students are able to use and expand their knowledge from the classroom as they plan their careers.

Students initiated contact with their professionals and set the agenda for meetings. They met at local coffee shops or at their mentors’ offices. They job shadowed, asked questions and met other members of the organizations.

“It was very beneficial,” said Lexie Weber, a management major who was part of initial group of students to go through the program. “I was able to ask personal and career questions, and my mentor adapted things to my interests.”

Weber is still considering career options, but says the mentorship program helped. She was paired with a human resources professional and thinks she would like that career path. Weber enjoyed seeing her mentor conduct job satisfaction and employee retention research.

“I really like the people aspect of human resources and helping employees feel valued,” Weber said.

Sam Schroeder, a business administration major, was also part of the first group of students to complete the program. He, too, is not quite decided on his career path, but his director of finance mentor taught him a lot. Schroeder felt comfortable asking questions and was given insight on what it is like to have a successful career.

“I asked, ‘What advice would you give someone my age?’ and he said to set goals, make a plan and go after them,” said Schroeder. “A lot of people my age struggle when it comes to making decisions on their future careers.”

Weber and Schroeder still keep in contact with their mentors and are excited to move forward in their NDSU education.
The College of Business is pleased to congratulate its students on their academic accomplishments during the fall 2016 semester. The college had 390 students named to the dean’s list. A student must earn a 3.50 grade-point average or higher and be enrolled in at least 12 class credits to qualify. Congratulations to the students and you, their family members who support them along the way.
NDSU does not discriminate in its programs and activities on the basis of age, color, gender expression/identity, genetic information, marital status, national origin, participation in lawful off-campus activity, physical or mental disability, pregnancy, public assistance status, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, spousal relationship to current employee, or veteran status, as applicable. Direct inquiries to: Vice Provost, Title IX/ADA Coordinator, Old Main 201, 701-231-7708, ndsu.eoaa@ndsu.edu.

THE PARENT CONNECTION IS A NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS FROM THE COLLEGE TO KEEP YOU INFORMED ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING AT NDSU AND IN THE COLLEGE. We try to limit the number of printed copies to do our part for a green campus. To be emailed an electronic version of next quarter’s edition, please email katherine.tulibaski@ndsu.edu or fill out a “contact the college” form from the left-hand menu on the college website at ndsu.edu/business. An electronic copy also will be available to you at any time, as a resource on the parent page on the college website.