Marshall updates general education requirements

By ALYSON MESSINGER
STUDENT REPORTER

Rich Jones, Professor and Chair in the Department of Communication Studies, and Journalism Professor, Dan Hollis gave a presentation at last week's Student Government meeting concerning the University's general education requirements.

In addition to Foundations, also known as general education requirements, the Marshall Mindset (HERD) Degree Requirements were added.

Consisting of Holistic Communication, Engaged Technological and Information Literacies, Responsible Citizenship, Design, Discovery, and Critical Thinking, it is designed to "cultivate graduates who are intellectually rigorous, ethically grounded, technologically fluent, and professionally prepared".

The "H" in HERD, holistic communication, will essentially be an expansion of Writing Intensive courses, broadened to include oral, aural, visual and written communication.

This change would allow a more interactive approach to the University's prior writing only requirement.

Secondly, the "E", Engaged Technological and Information Literacies, will focus on "evaluating, integrating, and ethically using information and technologies", encouraging the ethical use of the internet and media in general.

The "R", responsible citizenship, will replace the former multicultural and international designations, promoting the understanding of global relationships and cultural identities.

Lastly, "D", Design, Discovery, and Critical Thinking, will take the place of former Critical Thinking (CT) course requirements.

As opposed to the 6 hours of "CT" requirements once needed, only 3 hours of "D" classes are needed, cutting that requirement in half.

For the foreseeable future, the University has made the transition for upperclassmen into the new general education requirements optional, therefore seniors who are set to graduate soon, need not worry.

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What Marshall's gBETA Win means for students and the community

By BRIANNA MILLER
STUDENT REPORTER

Marshall University's gBETA startup accelerator is betting on Appalachia, and a minute and a half pitch might be all it takes to prove the region can compete.

For Marshall students, the program offers something West Virginia rarely sees, direct mentorship from national investors, paid shadowing opportunities, and a pipeline to startups that usually skip the region entirely.

"I wish more students knew it existed," Tricia Ball, executive director of Marshall University's Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, said. "I don't think that a lot of students know that this is available at the iCenter or through Marshall, so I think the number one thing would be awareness."

This seven-week program that runs, starting October 1 and 2, is very community-facing. Not only are students able to apply, but it's open to anyone in West Virginia.

Benefits for students include developing innovative ideas and connecting with customers and investors. Something called a lunch-and-learn is also provided each week, so people in the community, not only students, can learn from the program.

"I think the ways students can benefit from this even if they don't participate is that there are lunch-and-learns, which is educational content brought in," Tricia Ball said. "These are open to the public, so not only students are able to access the educational content and be a part of those."

At the end of the program, there is also a Shark Tank style pitch night, where startup founders pitch their ideas. Students can attend the event and meet startups they may be able to partner with or work for as interns or employees.

Gener8tor is a business that accelerates startups and founded the gBETA program at Marshall.

"What we saw was that Gener8tor often works in a lot of security markets," Bill Kuhn, program manager for gBETA at Marshall's iCenter, said. "We saw tremendous opportunity there to partner."

gBETA works in a lot of places where traditional venture capital markets are often overlooked, helping startups in those regions flourish.

While health care has been one of gBETA's largest areas of focus, the program also focuses on advanced energy, advanced manufacturing, aviation, cybersecurity and entrepreneurship.

"I would say that on the Huntington side of things, there are a lot of folks that are working underneath the radar in a lot of ways," Bill Kuhn said. "I think that what we're seeing is a flourishing, kind of financial tech group of customers that are exploring different avenues, whether it's in human resources or financial tech, we're seeing a lot of that in the Huntington area."

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SGA continues to look out for the Herd



Student Body Vice President Jimmy John Jacob

By ALYSON MESSINGER
STUDENT REPORTER

SGA is looking out for the Herd with help from Student Affairs by pushing their BIT reporting program.

The Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT) was established to assist faculty and staff with students going through tough times.

Falling under Davis & Jacob's main initiatives of maintaining student's mental health, its main goal is to keep students safe and continue to make them feel supported on campus.

Kat Smith, Marshall's director of Student Advocacy and Success, said BIT reports can be made by anyone on the Student Affairs website for things like mental health issues, physical endangerment, student concern, or academic related issues.

The Student Government body was encouraged to spread the word about BIT reporting to their peers, to ensure that no one on campus feels like they have nowhere to turn.

In addition to BIT reporting, SGA discussed a recent Campus Community Safety Committee meeting regarding the recent Greek housing inspections.

Huntington Fire Marshal Alan Roby said, "there was no coordination between the City of Huntington and Marshall University regarding these inspections." and according to him, the inspections were conducted independently by the city as part of its normal responsibility to ensure public safety.

According to the statement, from here on out, oversight of the affected properties will move from the Fire Marshal's Office to the City Building Inspector, and the owner of the properties is expected to submit a plan explaining how the issues will be addressed.

"To address ongoing concerns about Greek housing, an Action Learning Team is being formed. The group will review the current situation, evaluate the impacts of these recent changes, and develop recommendations for moving forward. A report and proposed action plan are expected by October 30." vice president Jimmy John Jacob said.

During this meeting, SGA also approved $20,000 in club funding, as well as 20 new clubs for the university.

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