

# next level

## IN CAREER PREPARATIONS

*DC Delegates, a new extracurricular group, aims to give juniors an edge in their future careers*

*by Michele Tinker  
Director of Annual Giving*

While preparing for your dream job begins at college, the work doesn't all take place in the classroom at Defiance College. That's the rationale behind the DC Delegates, a new extracurricular group created to help students take career preparations to the next level.

The DC Delegates is a creation of the Institutional Advancement office under the direction of Cindy Shaffer '03, '09, senior director of advancement services and gift planning, and Kelly Coble '11, '13, assistant director of advancement services. This is a special program for juniors who have been recommended by faculty and staff for their strong leadership skills and academic accomplishments.

According to Shaffer, the group is a natural extension of the Personal Success Plan that students create when they first enter Defiance College. The focus is on helping them develop a clear plan for finding their first job out of college. The program assists the students with establishing themselves with an appropriate social media site, refining their interpersonal skills such as making small talk at a business lunch and using proper dining etiquette, and works to help them network with alumni.

An important focus of the group is preparing for job interviews: What is appropriate attire for an interview, questions you can expect to be asked in an interview, as well as questions the job candidate should ask the potential employer.

The DC Delegates have represented the college at community events, such as the Defiance Area Festival of Trees luncheon, and assisted at gatherings at the home of DC President Mark Gordon.

One of the group's first outings was a visit to Central Insurance in Van Wert, Ohio, hosted by the company's senior vice president of marketing and DC board of trustees member Edd Buhl '73. After touring the facility, the students had lunch with other alumni employed at Central Insurance, where the conversation focused on getting a job in today's market.

Delegate Jake Arnold from Akron, Ohio, says when he joined the group, he thought, "This is going to be fun." He has since discovered it's been helpful as well. Jake credits the Delegates program with helping him to have confidence to communicate with people more easily. He enjoyed being part of the Festival of Trees luncheon, where he met members of the Defiance business community, and the group's visit to Central Insurance. Jake's major is business

administration, and he has applied for an internship because of a connection he made through the Delegates program.

While she didn't know what to expect, Mollee Galloway, a Delegate from Marion, Ohio, was excited to be selected for the new program. The social work major says it's been a really positive experience, the most important of which has been learning networking skills and becoming more comfortable in social and business settings. A great learning opportunity overall, she believes.

The IA staff continues to plan outings that will provide this exceptional group of students with valuable experiences and job insights. Any alumni interested in hosting the DC Delegates at their place of business or at an event can contact Kelly Coble at [kcoble@defiance.edu](mailto:kcoble@defiance.edu) or 419-783-2308. ♦



*DC Delegates include, from left: Mauricio Garces, Katie Tibbits, Mollee Galloway, and Luiyi Nunez; back, Jordan Heilger, Jacob Arnold, Scott Petricevich. Missing from photo are Kailea Holbrook, Hallie Sullivan, and Megan Puehler.*