

Governor meets with Entrepreneurship students; discusses Delaware's "tough economic times"

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Two Delaware Tech entrepreneurship students recently attended a luncheon with Gov. Jack Markell at a Seaford Chamber of Commerce luncheon as part of their capstone project.

Mike Pfaffenhauser, Kevin Justice, and Entrepreneurship Program Chair Beth Rodier joined local business owners and community leaders of the Seaford area on Feb. 17 at the Seaford Golf and Country Club.

The luncheon was sponsored by the Chamber's Business & Economic Development Committee, focusing on Delaware's current economic situation.

As part of the requirements in the 200-level course, Entrepreneurship Experience, students need to attend at least two community involvement events.

Instructor Beth Rodier said that these "expose students to the role of the business person in the community" and

encourages them to choose events relevant to their interests.

Kevin Justice, a second-year student, said the meeting was very informative and gave him the opportunity to "meet new people that can help [me] in the future."

Mike Pfaffenhauser, also a second year student, said, "It was a really good experience to meet the new governor for the first time and also to know exactly how bad-off our state is financially and what his plans and views are on the subject."

Rodier described the governor's speech as a "reality check" of the "tough economic times" faced by the state.

To illustrate the \$600 million budget deficit, Markell gave a list of local government organizations whose net worth would total \$600 million.

Pfaffenhauser recalled "all police departments, different types of government paying jobs, the entire homeland security department, DelDOT, and the IT Department" were



Entrepreneurship students Mike Pfaffenhauser, left, and Kevin Justice attended a Seaford Chamber of Commerce luncheon to hear Gov. Jack Markell speak on Delaware's financial condition. Involvement in community organizations is part of the capstone project in the Entrepreneurial Experience course.

Photo submitted

included in the hypothetical budget cut.

"I think it was very stunning for the students to hear," Rodier said in reference to Markell's illustration.

"This is just an example of the types of things we want our entrepreneurship students to be involved in and exposed to," she added.

Rodier is planning to take a group of entrepreneurship

students to the University of Delaware for the Second Annual President's Forum on Innovation and Entrepreneurship in late April to hear from young entrepreneurs and to observe UD students in an entrepreneurship competition.