Instructor receives state recognition

WITC-New Richmond's Tom Pedersen awarded the 2008 Honorary Life Member award

Tom Pedersen, Finance and Accounting instructor at Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College, received the 2008 Honorary Life Member award from Business Professionals of America (BPA) for his 14 years of dedication and service as an advisor for the club at WITC. The recognition, which came as a surprise to Pedersen, was awarded at the state BPA contest held recently in Madison.

"I think it is very important to recognize him as a deserving recipient of this award. He is a great advisor as well as instructor," says Jennifer Kees, WITC-New Richmond BPA president.

When asked the reason for his longevity as a BPA advisor, Pedersen says, "From the very beginning it seemed like a great opportunity for students to accomplish several worthwhile things related to their vocational training. It’s a social outlet enabling them to make friends and business contacts across the state and nation. It’s a chance to compete and be recognized for accomplishments in their fields. And it’s a chance to earn recognition for community service performed while in the club. All of these are positives for the student, the college and the community.

"I only wish we had 100 students in our chapter. It’s really a lot of fun through the year for a rather minimal amount of time commitment," Pedersen says.

Under his leadership, this year’s BPA students placed in many statewide events, including interview skills, medical office procedures, medical transcription, and small business management Team event. The group travels to Reno, Nev., in May to compete nationally.

Through involvement in BPA, students build lasting relationships with community business circles and have opportunities for personal and professional growth, travel, and new experiences. Members participate in leadership development, activities, workshops, and conferences.

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