

School of Business developing professionals

Segue

Each week on Segue, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville's premier radio show that outlines the ideas and issues on campus and beyond, co-host SIUE Chancellor Randy Pembroke, PhD, interviews one of the supportive administrators that help make SIUE great for its more than 13,200 students.

This episode will air at 9 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 23, on WSIE 88.7 FM The Sound.

On this week's episode, Pembroke welcomes Tim Schoenecker, PhD, School of Business dean. Although Schoenecker's appointment to the position was made effective July 1, the SIUE Board of Trustees approved the decision on Sept. 13. He served as interim dean since May 2016 and had served as the School's associate dean for four years.

Schoenecker earned a PhD in strategic management from Purdue University. During his 25-year career at SIUE, his primary teaching responsibilities were in strategic management and entrepreneurship. His research interests include corporate governance and top management teams. His work has been published in scholarly journals such as *Strategic Management Journal*, *IEEE Transactions on Engineering Management*, *Organization Science*, and *Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice*. He has done consulting work for small, not-for-profit organizations, as well as large, multinational publicly traded firms.

"Congratulations again on becoming the School of Business dean, since you had been interim dean twice during your time at SIUE. I hope you're as pleased as we are!" Pembroke says. "Tell us a little about the School of Business."

"I'm absolutely thrilled about it," Schoenecker replies. "We have two undergraduate degree programs - our bachelor of science in accountancy and our bachelor of science in business administration degree."

"Within that second program, we have nine different specializations ranging from entrepreneurship and economics to information systems and marketing. Those specializations are equivalent to what might be majors in many different universities."

Currently, the School of Business serves approximately 1,100 undergraduates majoring in one of those specialized programs and another 300 minoring in business.

"At the graduate level, we have four different programs. Our MBA program is our largest, but we also have specialized graduate degree programs in accounting, marketing research, and computer management and information systems," Schoenecker says.

Approximately 200 graduate students are currently taking coursework offered by the School of Business this semester.



Tim Schoenecker

"Many students think of business as a great degree to help them launch a career," Pembroke says. "Can you tell our listeners about the job market for graduates with business degrees?"

"The market is really good," Schoenecker explains. "Like most job markets, there is a cyclical nature to it, but currently, it is looking up. In particular, jobs in accounting and information systems, those students usually graduate with jobs or with multiple job offers."

"In the other degree areas, there is a great deal of demand, as well. We talked to some of the financial service firms in the St. Louis area, and there is a huge demand for students that are ready to sit for the Certified Financial Planning certification. Right now, it's a great time to be a business student!"

Schoenecker, in close partnership with faculty and staff, has contributed to the School's growth and celebrated its accounting and business programs' 2017 reaccreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), a hallmark of excellence earned by less than five percent of the world's business schools.

"That's one of our potential students' markers of quality," Schoenecker says. "We went through the reaccreditation process 18 months ago, and we put together a self-study report where we detailed student accomplishments, faculty qualifications, impact of our faculty's research work, student engagement in community activities, and things of that nature."

"Then, that report was reviewed by a visit team, which consists of two deans from other accredited business schools and two directors of accounting programs who came, visited campus and spent time on a mini-audit. They talked to our students, faculty and administration, and looked at our programs to see if we measured up."

This accreditation perfectly complemented the School of Business' other esteemed endorsement. For the 11th consecutive year, the School was named an outstanding business school by *The Princeton Review*. "The Best 294 Business Schools: 2017 Edition" by *The Princeton Review* recommends

the School as one of the best institutions in the U.S. from which students can earn an MBA.

"Each serve as a nice book-end for one another," Schoenecker says. "One is an internally focused audit that helps us know if we're doing the right things, and the other is an external validation that asks our students about their experience. For us, we've come through well on both."

"I love to talk about SIUE's relationship to the community," Pembroke says. "One of the units in your School, the Small Business Development Center, is a great example of a resource that helps the community."

The Illinois Metro East Small Business Development Center (SBDC) provides confidential, no-cost counseling services to entrepreneurs and existing business owners. Conducted by trained counselors, these sessions may include discussion and review of business plans, financing options, government assistance programs, marketing management and other topics of concern to its clients.

To hear more of Pembroke and Schoenecker's conversation, which includes more on the topics of cybersecurity, study abroad opportunities and innovative business competitions, tune in to this week's episode of Segue at 9 a.m. on WSIE 88.7 FM The Sound.

By Madelaine Deardeuff, SIUE Marketing and Communications