

# Liaison Librarian and Business Professor Collaborate to Increase Student Learning



Liaison librarians team teach in collaboration with classroom faculty to positively impact student learning. Liaison librarian, Cara Cadena, and business professor, Michael Ricco, have been successfully collaborating for over a year



to increase international business research competencies and information literacy skills for students in Ricco's Management 466 and Business 671 courses.

Cadena has been fully embedded in both courses since 2016 and the two faculty members work together to provide students with a stronger focus on international research practices and real-world examples of how businesses rely on research to make informed decisions in real time. Cadena was available for both face-to-face and virtual research support throughout the course.

Their collaboration began with a shared curiosity about whether or not these practices would positively impact student learning: They did. Through pre- and post-test surveys and citation analysis, Cadena and Ricco found an increase in both international business competencies and information literacy skills for students in the undergraduate and graduate courses.

"Our findings are that students gained a broader knowledge of resources available to them, how to find and assess more resources, how to apply them, and why," Ricco said. "This

led to better-informed student projects and expanded critical thinking."

Their methods and results were disseminated at the Midwest Business Administration Association International Conference in March, 2017<sup>[1]</sup> and will be published in an upcoming article in the *Journal of International Business Research and Practice*.

Cadena reflects that this collaboration exemplifies the many ways that liaison librarians support student learning: "My presence in the class, both in person and online, illuminated the fact that I really was there to support them and help them succeed in the course. We all learned together; I learned more about how they approach research and what information they need to find, and they learned not only about new resources, but about the research process itself."

[1] Cadena, C. M., & Ricco, M. (March, 2017). MBAA International Conference, "International business and information literacy: Faculty/librarian collaboration to prepare students for the international business workforce." Chicago, IL.

**ABOVE:** Cara Cadena (top) and Michael Ricco (bottom)

## STAFF IMPACT



### Bob Kozminski: A Little Kindness Goes a Long Way

Thousands of people pass through the doors of the Mary Idema Pew Library Learning and Information Commons each day. Library Specialist Bob Kozminski ensures that these visitors' experiences are pleasant and worthwhile. Bob said he takes a simple approach to his job by offering a kind word, a smile, and treating everyone with respect.

Bob has been making great impressions for library visitors since 1995. As part of the library's User Experience team, Bob helps library users from answering questions at the service desk and the library's online chat service to facilitating library events and exhibits. After more than twenty years of service, Bob still finds plenty to enjoy about his job and its focus on helping others. "It is so rewarding to be in the midst of faculty, students, and staff every day," he says.

In 2016 Bob was recognized with the Library Excellence Award, which is awarded to a faculty or staff member who goes above and beyond their job description. Bob was nominated by two of his colleagues for the award. Both recognized his kindness, his ability to connect with people on a personal level, and, as his supervisor Kristin Meyer puts it, his "meticulous attention to detail and dedication to delivering a great user experience."