# Faculty Research Focus

## 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 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.”