



The Face of Westchester

# John Christesen

*Educating Tomorrow's Business Leaders Today*

*Our students have gone on to institutions such as New York University, Pace, Iona, SUNY Albany, SUNY Maritime, Baruch, Fordham, and Clarkson.*

—JOHN CHRISTESEN

The walls of Business Department Chairperson John Christesen's office are dense with awards. The holder of the Sophia Abeles Endowed Chair of Business Administration and winner of a Westchester Community College Foundation Medallion Award also proudly displays a large map, dotted with dozens of red flags from California to New York.

"Each flag stands for an Alpha Beta Gamma chapter," he says. "When I was made national president of this student honor society for business majors, there were twenty chapters." Their subsequent expansion to more than 200 chapters is just one example of the influence of one of our region's leading business educators.

Christesen moved from the finance field into academia in the 1970's. "The college's business program was small. We didn't even offer Business Administration degrees," he says. Excluding the Liberal Arts program, the numerous business programs now comprise the largest single group of students at the college, numbering more than two thousand.

The programs boast faculty with real-world experience, and leading edge technology including three "smart room" labs with



As one of the region's leading educators, Professor John Christesen continues to inspire hundreds of the college's business students.

sophisticated Internet capabilities. The Alpha Beta Gamma chapter, which includes more than 100 students, holds occasional group breakfast meetings with the presidents of local businesses.

"The business programs have an extremely good reputation," says Jerome Siegel, Chairman of the Board of the Titan Industrial Corporation. "I sat in on some classes and much of what I heard was similar to what I was taught at Harvard." Christesen's students have gone on to institutions such as New York University, Pace, Iona, SUNY Albany, SUNY Maritime, Baruch, Fordham, and Clarkson.

"A former student called me from Wharton, asking advice about foreign language requirements," says Christesen. "'Go out to the parking lot, and then call back,' I told him. He saw all the Japanese manufactured cars, so not only did he take Japanese, he became the first American to pass the test for stockbrokers in Japanese!"

Professor Christesen continues to empower his students, encouraging them to learn valuable lessons that will take them places they have never dreamed of, and once they reach those destinations, to succeed.