In April 2015, *Bloomberg Business* released data from its student survey showing the returns to students who completed an MBA. Graduates who moved into new fields saw a median pay increase of $55,000. This represents a significant increase at a time when wage growth for most professional employees has been relatively stagnant. MBA graduates who stayed in their original industry, saw a median increase of $47,000.

Also in April, *Financial Times* shared data it collected about compensation for MBA graduates three years out of school. It found that younger students who started an MBA at age 24 or younger saw the most increase of nearly $69,000. The salary difference decreased the older the students were when they entered the program; those who started an MBA program at age 31 or older receive an increase of $56,000 three years out. This is most likely because older employees starting an MBA program are already making more money based on their years of experience.

Regardless of one’s age or position, an MBA can add great value to your career and help you increase your salary. Dr. Cigdem Gurgur, the newly-appointed director of the MBA program at IPFW, concurs. “Even though the value of an MBA is well recognized, it does require the prospective MBA student to make an investment with their financial resources and their time. Many employers will assist their employee in covering all or part of the cost and allow time required to be an effective student.” When a company makes an investment in an employee to further their education, it makes an investment that will benefit the company as a whole.

Another major benefit for the MBA graduate will be establishing lasting relationships with other members of their class and their faculty. These relationships can prove to be highly beneficial throughout their career. The knowledge gained and the relationships developed will open doors for a lifetime.

The Doermer School of Business is always reevaluating its MBA curriculum to be current and valuable to both the student and their employer. We want our graduates to bring leading edge thinking to their companies, which will in turn allow the DSB to develop partnerships that will make northeast Indiana more competitive in the global marketplace. This partnership is fostered through the newly-created Center for Excellence in Business Analytics. Engagement by the Doermer School of Business with the business community of northeast Indiana makes the region more economically viable and will be the natural result of a strong MBA program.
“I was pleasantly surprised hearing that Dr. Gurgur was appointed as the new MBA director. I appreciated her style of teaching. I thought the quantitative nature of her course along with that of Dr. Slaubaugh and Dr. Sharma were the key takeaways of the program, specifically with Dr. Gurgur. Her style of teaching and the pace that she taught was what I was expecting for an accelerated program. It was very challenging. We covered a lot of vital information quickly and she was readily available for questions during and after class hours.”

- Lawrence Manuel, Director of Enterprise Solutions at Zimmer Biomet

“I selected the accelerated MBA program from IPFW due mainly to the experience I had with the faculty during my undergraduate studies, along with the program format and timeline which suited my particular needs. I was able to accomplish a lifelong goal in only 11 months and can now apply the knowledge gained to further my career. I thoroughly enjoyed the camaraderie between my fellow classmates as we were all on the same challenging journey together. And the faculty pushed us to exceed even our own expectations. The accelerated MBA from IPFW has granted me options for my career, which is an invaluable resource that I plan to take full advantage of in the future.”

- Aimee Johnson, Senior Auditor at Defense Contract Audit Agency

We want our graduates to bring leading edge thinking to their companies, which will in turn allow the DSB to develop partnerships that will make northeast Indiana more competitive in the global marketplace.
“I enjoyed sharpening my quantitative skills across a variety of subject matter. The courses Data Analysis Management Science and Business Conditions Analysis allowed me to immediately apply knowledge from the classes to my current job. Overall, I found the material studied throughout the program to be extremely relevant in today's business environment and relevant to my current career in analytics.”

- Sharone Rawson, Director of Revenue and Pricing Analytics at Verde Associates

“The accelerated MBA program through the Doermer School of Business was challenging, but rewarding. The professors expected a lot out of the students, but, at the same time, they were very understanding of our other commitments and were very willing to work with the students if something unexpectedly went awry. The program gave me exposure to many topics that have already proved to be useful in my current position. The most beneficial classes for my career were the Management, Marketing, Finance and IT courses; however, I also enjoyed getting a refresher in Accounting, Economics and Linear Programming. Being able to complete my MBA in under a year from a program that held the AACSB-International Accreditation was another reason I chose this program.”

- Crystal Creekmore, Vice President - Operations at SYM Financial Advisors

“I liked that the classes were on the weekend when I could commute to Fort Wayne from Indianapolis. I also liked that almost all the classes were recorded. Sometimes during classes I would miss something and was able to refer back to the lecture recording to recall that part of the lesson. Also, most of the handout material could be collected online so I didn’t necessarily have to print everything and physically hand it in.”

- David Clawson, Manager of Treasury Analysis and Reporting at J.D. Byrider Systems LLC