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Finley Named Virtual Enterprise Fellow

LIMA, Ohio -- Les Finley, SPHR, Assistant Professor at Rhodes State College, has been named to the Virtual Enterprise Fellows Program at the Institute for Virtual Enterprise (VE) City University of New York. A Findlay native, Finley teaches in the Management and Marketing Program at Rhodes State and is one of only six nationwide to receive this honor.

This recognition comes on the heels of presenting at the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) VE at the University of New York last spring. Finley along with three colleagues from other two-year colleges in the United States discussed their experiences and struggles while implementing STEM VE curriculum into their classes.

As a global partner with the VE Institute, Rhodes State joins colleges and universities from 14 countries that give students the opportunity for activity-based learning in simulated business environments through experiential learning. Rhodes State--the only college participating from Ohio--engages in global business simulations through conceptualization, development and commerce where students are part of a global live trading day via the internet as the simulation concludes.

The first cohort of Fellows are collecting data about VE's impact on students' soft and entrepreneurial skills and how the pedagogy provides students with a breadth of perspective on science and technology industries. The Fellows are also charged with expanding the program through mentoring new implementers, developing instructional materials for dissemination and writing scholarly articles. The Institute and its Fellows continue to expand the VE program through new projects.

The Institute for VE has repeatedly been funded by the National Science Foundation's Advanced Technological Education program to work on educational programs that infuse

entrepreneurial skills and experiences into STEM classrooms. Through the simulation pedagogy, Virtual Enterprise has students in STEM classrooms building simulated businesses that coincide with the learning done in their major. The success of the STEM Virtual Enterprise has led to the funding of a planning grant for a National Center for Technological Entrepreneurship.

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