New online master’s degree can ‘protect’ your career

Sullivan’s Graduate School has always been the leader in providing career advancement and enhanced job security in today’s highly competitive and ever-changing work environment. Recent cyber attacks on U.S. banks, the oil industry and others, point to one fact: cyber security experts are in high demand. Starting in Winter 2014, the Graduate School will offer a Master of Science in Conflict Security (MSCS). The MSCS is completed entirely online, and will prepare graduates to lead and work in various capacities to protect information infrastructures of different organizations. The degree honea
tical and research skills as it provides technical knowledge to understand information security with theoretical and practical experience. Graduates develop core competencies in information security assessments, monitoring and auditing of computer implementa
tions and networks. This extends to inves
tigating operating systems security, distributed systems, database security, security policies and protocols, crypto
tography and applications security. By gaining practical skills combating real and simulated cyber-attacks, the MSCS degree leads toward a cyber security career. Some of the career paths in cyber security include: cyber policy analyst, chief security officer, cyber
security software engineer, digital forensics expert, information systems security administrator and many more.
Contact admissions@sullivan.edu or Dr. Uddoh, eudoh@sullivan.edu for more information.

Making a difference

Kim Castle epitomizes the spirit of Sullivan University. When she first met with Admissions Officer Maranka Adams, she was at a low point in her life. Her husband had passed away after a long battle with cancer, and the mounting medical bills resulted in having her heating turned off, and her children were close to losing their home. Marika gave her hope that getting her education could lead to a better life, and that it did! After earning her Executive Masters of Business Administration (EMBA) in 2007, she pursued a second master’s degree in Conflict Management and graduated in 2009.

Sullivan degrees inspired her business

Utilizing her degree from both degrees, Kim founded the Appalachia

Graduated students team up to ‘master’ their leadership skills

The Masters’ level Leadership & Team Development students (MGT 545) learn leadership skills through class exercises in teamwork. According to the professor, Dr. Terry Kibiloski, at the Masters’ level it is important for students to learn how to synthesize and evaluate new information, and working in teams facilitates this higher level think
ning. Dr. Kibiloski firmly believes that “leadership must be experienced to be learned.”

Unique team exercises impart valuable leadership skills

One exercises begins with each student choosing six items from a list of 21, they would like to have to survive in the cold Rocky Mountains after crashing in a small plane. Once each student chooses their six items, they assemble in teams to support their choices and to decide upon a new list of six items on which all team members can agree. Then, after each team shares and justifies their list of six items, Dr. Kibiloski presents more information about the use of each of the 21 items in an emer
gency situation. Based upon this new information, the teams then revise their list to make even better choices. This team exercise demonstrates that leaders make better decisions when they gather information from other leaders, and from external research.

Another team exercise begins with each student choosing who they believe is the best leader in the world, past or present. Teams are then formed where each student must justify their choice and the team must then choose just one leader to represent all. This exercise forces the students to justify their thoughts to other team members, listen to others’ opinions, and develop team decisions.

Class diversity is advantageous

The Masters’ level Leadership & Team Development students (MGT 545) learn leadership skills through class exercises in teamwork. According to the professor, Dr. Terry Kibiloski, at the Masters’ level it is important for students to learn how to synthesize and evaluate new information, and working in teams facilitates this higher level thinking. Dr. Kibiloski firmly believes that “leadership must be experienced to be learned.”

Unique team exercises impart valuable leadership skills

One exercises begins with each student choosing six items from a list of 21, they would like to have to survive in the cold Rocky Mountains after crashing in a small plane. Once each student chooses their six items, they assemble in teams to support their choices and to decide upon a new list of six items on which all team members can agree. Then, after each team shares and justifies their list of six items, Dr. Kibiloski presents more information about the use of each of the 21 items in an emergency situation. Based upon this new information, the teams then revise their list to make even better choices. This team exercise demonstrates that leaders make better decisions when they gather information from other leaders, and from external research.

Another team exercise begins with each student choosing who they believe is the best leader in the world, past or present. Teams are then formed where each student must justify their choice and the team must then choose just one leader to represent all. This exercise forces the students to justify their thoughts to other team members, listen to others’ opinions, and develop team decisions.

Class diversity is advantageous

According to Dr. Kibiloski, the team dynamics also help to create real-world leadership skills in the classroom. He notes that the Masters’ level leadership classes are comprised of students from multiple countries and cultures. This mix of students creates an interesting list of chosen leaders who are lesser known in the United States, creating an international depth of knowledge and understanding of how leadership is different, and the same, throughout the world.

Sullivan degrees inspired her business

Utilizing her degree from both degrees, Kim founded the Appalachian Peace Center. It started as a place that offered basic and family mediation services and domestic violence training. Under Kim’s direction and leadership it has grown to so much more. The Center now also offers Ac

tive Parenting classes, Cooperative Parenting and Divorce classes, Anger Management courses, and Domestic Violence classes, and other services designed to help people deal with negative conflicts. These skills offer hope to parents who have lost faith. From Kim’s perspective, she is giving back the hope that was given to her. Kim also wants to offer a scholarship for mediation training to a student in Sullivan University’s Masters of Con

clict Management program. The Center is very busy, Kim recently took on another project and purchased a store in downtown Winchester, Kentucky called the Olde Blue Cow Gift Shoppe. The Olde Blue Cow name is based on fond memories of stories her grandfather told her as a child with the Olde Blue Cow theme.

Continues to give back

There are two empty rooms in the back of the store. In one, Kim will offer art therapy classes for people who are overwhelmed and struggling with life. In another, she will provide classes for ex-offenders who find it difficult to get a job and have a de
sire to start a business. She will teach them how to write a business plan, work with a banker, find an insurance agent, and put together the pieces of a business (and their lives).

Member of first doctoral cohort

In addition to Kim’s entrepreneurial and pay-it-forward spirit, she has continued her education at Sullivan University. As a charter member of the Ph.D. in Management program, Kim was part of the original doctoral research to explore what motivates workplace bullies. And, when she completes this requirement for the degree, she will become the first graduate of the Appalachian Peace Center to research. Kim will continue to help make our world a more peaceful place to live, one person at a time.