



Becker College's Yunus Social Business Centre

Becker College is one of a handful of higher education institutions in the world—and the first in the United States—to establish an officially sanctioned Yunus Social Business Centre.

The Yunus Social Business Centre at Becker College complements Becker's mission to provide a transformational learning experience to each student, and expands the global concept of education they provide. Yunus' approach to social business is uniquely positioned to address need, create value, and drive profit which, in turn, can expand the reach, impact, and sustainability of the solution. Professor Yunus believes this approach of applying business to social problems is more scale-able and resilient than any other strategy.

Becker shares this vision and understands that students are value creators. They solve problems with an entrepreneurial mindset. The goal is to provide students with the skills to take real-world problems and create self-sustaining businesses that have social impact, create jobs, and spur economic development. The new Colleen C. Barrett Center for Global Leadership, opening next fall, will be the locus for supporting experiential and service learning to educate a new generation about the importance of social business.

Becker College is working to develop partnerships with companies such as Wilson Language Training to create a social business laboratory centered on literacy. Students and graduates in the Gaming, Design, Big Data, Global Citizenship, and Early Childhood Education programs will greatly benefit from a relationship with Wilson Language Training in the short and long term. Having them as a partner will significantly impact Becker's experiential learning programs within the Yunus Social Business Centre at Becker College. Wilson Language Training will serve as the first social business in need of problem-solving with the goal of working toward a real-life solution presented by student-led teams.

A college degree from any institution has little value to the graduate or society if it does not fully develop students who not only have knowledge, but also know how to effectively use that knowledge in innovative ways. Today, employers seek employees—universally, in all industries—who not only execute the job for which they were hired, but also possess an agile mindset that enables them to rethink, reimagine, and reconceive the job to add new value for the employer.

The goal is to provide students with the skills to take real-world problems and create self-sustaining businesses that have social impact, create jobs, and spur economic development.

The Agile Mindset

The way people work today will not be the way people work tomorrow; the career model of working in one job until retirement is a relic. So, too, is the old higher education model obsolete, whereby a student would earn a degree to prepare for a first job and a single career that would end at retirement. College graduates today will have more than 15 jobs by the age of 40. It is imperative that higher education prepares each student for multiple jobs and careers, helping them develop the soft skills that will enable them to effectively adapt to disruption and reinvent themselves throughout their professional careers. At Becker College, this is called the Agile Mindset and Becker is currently developing a partnership with companies such as Unum Insurance to create a unique program that will bring these skills, through competency based education, to their employees.

The Agile Mindset at Becker College is an approach that values knowledge and the power of learning. It provides individuals with the adaptability to complement planning and process with competencies in:

- Empathy to uncover insights and human needs in times of ambiguity.
- Divergent thinking to find, frame, and address problems not yet known.
- Entrepreneurial outlook to create value in all that they do.
- Social and emotional intelligence skills to collaborate with others to create solutions.

At a time when many colleges and universities are struggling with low enrollment, financial shortfalls, and reputation challenges, Becker College continues to thrive and transform. During this implementation phase of the Agile Mindset as part of their seven-year strategic plan, there are many new opportunities for partnership and strategic growth. The agile mindset effectively equips Becker graduates to embrace jobs that do not yet exist, to solve problems that have yet to be identified, and to weather the disruption that lies ahead.