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Weekend MBA, Class of 2013



“Had I not been in the
...program, I would not
have been in a position
to make the move
that I did,”

Unexpected Rewards

I wouldn't have foreseen getting into the biofuel industry without the kind of pivot that the program made possible. It was a critical factor in being able to move from running my own consulting business—focused on business development and policy issues in rural North Carolina and rural Africa—into the bioenergy space.

The UNC Kenan-Flagler Advantage

At the time I went for my MBA, I was trying to build a consulting business but I was also thinking about other businesses that I wanted to create. To do it at the scale I was going for, I knew I had some things to learn about finance, management—a whole range of things. UNC Kenan-Flagler's strength in entrepreneurship was a big driver for me. I knew that UNC Kenan-Flagler was among the strongest programs in the U.S., and that was important because I wanted to invest my time with emerging leaders in business and a team of great professors. It's not whether the program is first or tenth, it's how the graduates from the program perform and contribute to their businesses and communities when they leave.

Strength in Collaboration

In the Weekend MBA program, you have all of these people who are top performers in a range of different industries—they are type-As who are competing in almost everything they do—but there's something about the environment at UNC Kenan-Flagler that takes all of these naturally competitive people and puts them into a very collaborative space. For the amount of energy it takes to be working full time and doing your personal life and going to school, having that environment was incredibly important for me.

Personalized Learning

For the people coming into the EMBA, who are a bit older and more experienced than what you'd see in a full-time MBA program, flexibility really matters a lot. The professors at UNC Kenan-Flagler recognize that, and give you the flexibility you need to focus on the things that matter to you.

Faculty Connections

One professor and I shared an interest in policy issues impacting the developing world, and we connected on that outside of class—I even joined him to deliver a lecture for full-time students. The Director of the Center for Entrepreneurial Studies came to dinner at my apartment one time to meet a few Triangle-based leaders in innovation. I have lasting friendships with professors from the program.

Behind-the-Scenes Support

There are a lot of logistics and administration involved in a program like this. UNC Kenan-Flagler does an extraordinarily good job of making sure that when you're there you're just focused on learning. I was really grateful for what they do to deliver a great experience for everybody.

The Carolina Community

I knew that the UNC Kenan-Flagler network in North Carolina—where I wanted to do a great deal of my work—was going to be extremely valuable for me. With an MBA program, you're getting yourself set into a network that has decades behind it and certain geographical communities. UNC Kenan-Flagler has a very strong network in this region and I was attracted to that.