Martindale Center for the Study of Private Enterprise

Main Office: Rauch Business Center, Suite 350 / 621 Taylor Street / 610.758.4771

Current Faculty: Todd A. Watkins, Ph.D., Executive Director, and Director of the Microfinance Program; Judith McDonald, Ph.D., Associate Director, and Director of the Canadian Studies Institute; Jesus M. Salas, Ph.D., Director of the Family Business Institute; Andrew Ward, Ph.D., Associate Director.

Faculty Emeriti: J. Richard Aronson, Ph.D., founding Director; Robert J. Thornton, Ph.D., former Associate Director and Editor of Martindale Publications.

Affiliated Faculty: Martindale Student Associates Honors Program Mentors: Stephen H. Cutchliffe, Ph.D.; Vera Fennell, Ph.D.; Nandkumar (Nandu) Nayar, Ph.D.; Catherine M. Ridings, Ph.D.; Richard N. Weisman, Ph.D.; George P. White, Ph.D.

Staff: Janice Johnston Howie, Martindale Program Director; Melissa Gallagher, Administrative Coordinator.

Founded in 1980 thanks to a generous endowment from Elizabeth Fairchild Martindale and Harry Turner Martindale ’27, the Martindale Center for the Study of Private Enterprise is an interdisciplinary resource in Lehigh University's College of Business. The Center engages students, faculty, and the business and policy communities in active inquiry tackling questions central to understanding and fostering sustainable private enterprises and inclusive economic systems throughout the world.

Each year since 1980, the Martindale Student Associates Honors Program has enabled a select group of the very best Lehigh juniors and seniors, from disciplines across the entire university, to actively explore global business and economic issues through research travel to organizations around the world, and interviews and meetings with decision makers, distinguished executives, and scholars. Students’ original research is published in the Center’s academic journal, Perspectives on Business and Economics (https://preserve.lehigh.edu/cbe-martindale/). The program is the flagship of the Martindale Center and a hallmark of Lehigh’s commitments to student engagement, research excellence, and globalization.

Martindale’s Microfinance and Microenterprise Program, launched in 2005, advances understanding of the development and impact of microfinance locally and globally. It comprises a broad range of activities including faculty research, undergraduate and graduate student research, academic-industry initiatives, workshops and conferences, opportunities for field immersion in the US and abroad, and a community lending practicum and internships for students.

Martindale’s Canadian Studies Institute was established in 1984. It promotes understanding of Canadian economic and political issues by supporting topics of mutual interest to US and Canadian faculty, and by bringing Canadian speakers to campus.

Established in 2016, the Family Business Institute seeks to provide high-quality educational experiences, backed by world-class research, to assist families in managing, growing, and developing their businesses, and researchers exploring challenges unique to family business. The Institute pursues its mission through research programs, executive education initiatives, workshops, and activities that engage Lehigh students with family businesses, including internships and support for courses.

The Martindale Center produces a range of scholarly publications and provides sponsorship and support for faculty research, lectures, conferences, and visiting scholar and executive-in-residence programs.

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