

The College of Business

M.B.A. Program Brings Education to the Workplace

Like room service, the employees at Pitney Bowes are having their education delivered to them.

On Monday and Wednesday evenings, employees gather in the Discovery Room in Building No. 27 at the Pitney Bowes facility in Shelton to work toward their master's degrees through a cohort program offered through the College of Business. Cohort programs allow classes to move seamlessly as a unit through the coursework. There are other advantages as well.

"Two nights a week, I literally walk downstairs from my office

and I'm in the class," says Marisa Scott, the manager of IT Strategic Sourcing at Pitney Bowes. "And if we stay with the program through to the end, 100 percent of the tuition is reimbursable by the company. Financially, it makes sense and it's very convenient."

The class will complete the program in the spring of 2012, and Scott, who has been trying to return to school for many years to earn her master's degree, will finally be able to cross that achievement off her list.

UNH adjunct instructor Jim Mohs, who teaches in the cohort program, says he had some initial reservations about the in-house approach, which leads to a fast-paced, accelerated M.B.A. But his experience at Pitney Bowes has alleviated his concerns. "I find this cohort to be remarkable,"

Mohs said. "There is a chemistry among the

class members, a pure team learning concept where everyone participates."

And everyone benefits. "Offering an M.B.A. in-house is a tremendous convenience for the students," says Linda Carlone, who directs the program for UNH. "They don't need to get into their cars and travel anywhere. In some work environments, employees may return to their desk to get some more work done."

