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MBA Lessons Applied Immediately With Ownership Transition

CEDARVILLE, OHIO – When Dan Filpus helped his 70-year-old company transition ownership, he was able to immediately apply lessons from his Cedarville University Master of Business Administration (MBA) coursework.

Filpus has worked for seven years at Polygon Company in Walkerton, Indiana. He currently serves as director of finance. Polygon is a manufacturing company founded 70 years ago during World War II. Last year, the owners of this thriving business decided to sell the company.

Polygon's owners and its president formed an executive team, including Filpus, to meet with prospective buyers. As the team met with four potential buyers for the company, Filpus offered feedback to the owners and assisted in the due diligence process once a letter of intent was signed. He handled legal, insurance and financial data in preparation for the acquisition.

During this transition in ownership, Filpus took the Management and Organizational Behavior MBA course at Cedarville University and was in the process of completing the Accounting for Business Executives MBA course. The material from both courses was very applicable to this real-world business decision.

"One reason why I wanted an MBA degree was to gain a broader leadership perspective," said Filpus. "The ownership transition came quickly, but my MBA preparation gave me a good start. My prior management class and my current accounting class have been very relevant as there have been takeaways from each class that have directly helped me in this transition. I was able to give management presentations, serve my team and use sound judgement in financial decisions."

Although Filpus' MBA studies played a big part in his work, his faith proved even more valuable.

"God provided strength and wisdom for me," said Filpus. "There were extra hours I worked in all this, but God gave me great rest. The Lord's Days were very refreshing for me — both for my body and my soul."

Another sign of God's faithfulness in Filpus' life is his wife of 20 years, Jody. "She was a great help to me during this," he said. "She was encouraging me and taking on additional work around the house so I could focus on my work. Knowing this made the time I spent with my family even sweeter."

Filpus is thankful for this opportunity to be a servant-leader and to follow God's direction. He relies on the truths of Proverbs 16:9: "The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps." Filpus is projected to finish his Cedarville MBA in December 2019.

Located in southwest Ohio, Cedarville University is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist institution with an enrollment of 3,963 undergraduate, graduate, and online students in more than 150 areas of study. Founded in 1887, Cedarville is recognized nationally for its authentic Christian community, rigorous academic programs, strong graduation and retention rates, accredited professional and health science offerings, and leading student satisfaction ratings. For more information about the University, visit www.cedarville.edu.

Sub-head: MBA student Dan Filpus uses teachings from coursework and scripture during an ownership transition at work.