

Alfred University professor Jean Ellefson appointed Tabor Chair in Family Business and Entrepreneurship
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Jean Ellefson

ALFRED, NY – Jean Ellefson, assistant professor of analytics in Alfred University’s College of Business, has been named Jon and Mary Tabor Chair in Family Business and Entrepreneurship. The Tabor Chair had been held by marketing professor Amy Rummel, who retired in May.

“I am delighted to see Jean Ellefson named to the Tabor Chair,” said Mark Lewis, dean of the College of Business. “Jean has been involved in family business and entrepreneurship from the time she worked in her family business growing up, and has entrepreneurship experience around the globe. She brings her unique background into the classroom, and is an incredibly effective teacher and mentor for our students.”

Ellefson was appointed assistant professor of analytics in January of 2019. She teaches the Business Practicum class at Alfred University and this coming fall she will begin teaching the Master of Business Administration Capstone class, providing consultation to MBA students working with family firms and other businesses.

As Tabor Chair, Ellefson will offer instruction that focuses on a number of objectives and skills required of family firms, including succession planning, business plan development, human resources, understanding the global marketplace, marketing and sales, managing growth and change, and the use of technology.

Ellefson has experience in family enterprise, having grown up working in her family’s business. For the last year she has been managing member of Gilletek LLC, which provides consulting work for startup businesses. She joined the Alfred University College of Business faculty following a 24-year career at Xerox Corp., where she served most

recently (2017-2018) as vice president of Operations and chief of staff, Research and Development.

Alfred University's College of Business has three faculty positions dedicated to the promotion of family business development: the Raymond Chair in Family Business, held by Theresa Gunn, associate professor of accountancy; the William T. Tredennick Professorship in Entrepreneurship, held by Jason Morrison, assistant professor of finance; and the Tabor Chair.

The College offers a minor in family business and entrepreneurship, and students have opportunities to work directly with businesses, including family firms, through the College's Family Business and Entrepreneurship program. For example, students assist in providing free consulting services to businesses: most recently, it involved helping a family firm transition to third generation ownership.

The Tabor Chair in Family Business and Entrepreneurship was created in 1998 with a gift from Alfred University alumnus Jon K. Tabor, a former member of Alfred University's Board of Trustees, and his late wife, Mary (Singleton) Tabor '58. Tabor, who earned a bachelor's degree in economics from Alfred University in 1955, spent 50 years at Allied Mineral Products, a refractories company in Columbus, OH, before retiring in January as chairman emeritus. He joined Allied in 1970 as salesman and during his tenure with the firm held positions of sales manager, vice president of sales, president, CEO, and chairman. Allied Minerals is a family-owned firm. Tabor's son, Jon R. Tabor, has been president and CEO at Allied since 2009 and since 2017 has served as chairman.

Tabor served on the Alfred University Board of Trustees twice: as an alumni-elected trustee from 1984-86 and as a regular trustee from 1995-98. He was named recipient of the Alfred University Distinguished Service Award, The Alfred University Founders Society Honor, The Ohio Exporter of the Year Award (1985), and the Ceramic Industry Refractory Man of the Year Award (2006).