



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release: Jan. 4, 2018

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Sentry Insurance Foundation focuses on education

Investing in education and training at multiple levels is one part of charitable giving

MAUI, Hawaii (January 4, 2018) – In May 2020, the first graduates of University of Wisconsin-Stevens Points' Bachelor of Science in Data Analytics will walk across the stage. It will be the culmination of a partnership between the University and Sentry Insurance in creating the undergraduate program.

Data analytics is critical to Sentry, just as it is to many other companies. McKinsey Global Institute predicted by 2018 the United States could face a shortage of 190,000 employees with deep analytical skills. Sentry Insurance Foundation stepped forward to fund two endowed chairs to lead the new program at UW-Stevens Point.

"Employers have not been able to train data analytics professionals fast enough to keep pace with the growing demand," said Pete McPartland, Sentry chairman of the board, president, and CEO, and chairman of the Foundation. "Sentry's commitment to fund the creation of this program at UWSP will help employers benefit from the rapidly changing world of data availability and usage."

Sentry Insurance Foundation has a long history of funding education, training, and workforce development programs. The Foundation embarked on an initiative to invest in education at multiple levels, reaching students at all age levels:

- Supporting youth education by helping schools in Sentry's hometown purchase and maintain computer and information technology resources.
- Providing scholarships for mathematics, actuarial science, business, and information technology students at 17 public and private colleges throughout Wisconsin.
- Building two information technology co-operative programs to help college-level students learn IT skills by working alongside Sentry associates, working on real-world projects.

Through a matching program, Sentry associates, retirees, and the Foundation donate nearly \$1 million annually to schools and other education facilities across the country.

Education funding is just one part of the Sentry Insurance Foundation's charitable giving efforts. Sentry associates and the Foundation donate more than \$1.45 million annually to local United Way chapters. In 2017, Sentry instituted a volunteer time-off program, allowing associates to volunteer at charitable organizations. Whether it is time and financial assistance, Sentry is committed to giving back.

“We do these things because our communities have been good to us,” said Ann Lucas, Sentry Insurance Foundation Executive Director. “Giving is easy when you have a purpose and direction, and everyone sees the good that happens.”

About Sentry:

Sentry Insurance is one of the largest and most financially secure mutual insurance companies in the United States, holding an A+ (superior) rating from A.M. Best. Sentry and its subsidiaries sell property and casualty insurance, life insurance, annuities, and retirement programs for business and individuals throughout the country. Headquartered in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, Sentry employs more than 4,000 associates in 41 states. See a complete list of underwriting companies at www.sentry.com.

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