



### **UW MBA Executive Leadership Speaker Series – Stephen Goldstone**

A strong emphasis throughout the MBA program at the University of Wyoming is placed on providing students with real-world experience. Throughout the year, the program hosts a Friday Leadership Speaker Series comprised of experienced business professionals and executives.

Steve Farkas, Director of the MBA program commented, "I encourage our guest speakers to share as much real-world experience with our students as possible. Speakers will share a variety of topics with students from industry trends, strategic challenges, management styles, career management, and networking."

Recently MBA students had the opportunity to hear from CEO Stephen Goldstone. Goldstone has over 30 years of senior executive level experience in health care and insurance industries and currently serves as the President & Chief Executive Officer at WINhealth Partners.

Mr. Goldstone's presentation provided an overview of his background ranging from his college career in Minnesota, ownership of a bagel business in Colorado, and his work at WINhealth in Wyoming. Goldstone focused on the pragmatism within the insurance industry and the uncertainty that the Affordable Care Act has created for the health insurance industry and the American people.

MBA candidate Michael Willcox commented, "In short his entire lecture was based around the Affordable Care Act and the implications which coincide with it. If you rely on customers to make a living you should never get involved in politics, the Affordable Care Act has made it so there is no reliance on customers, but rather forced requirements paving the way for political agenda in all health insurance business models."

Furthermore, MBA energy candidate Laurel A. Winkenwerder shared, "It was an extremely informative meeting about the impact of the Affordable Care Act on health insurers in the state of Wyoming. Given the current polarizing nature of the Act, it was a pertinent topic for Friday's Speaker Series."