

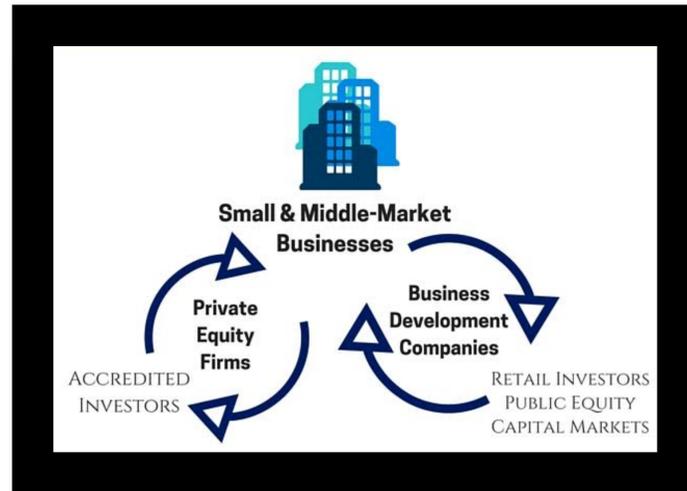


Business Development Companies: Imposing on Private Equity? Taylor Martin, Finance Major, May 2020

Intellectual
Achievement

SUMMARY

During the Spring 2019 semester, I had the incredible opportunity to complete my first research project through the Office of Undergraduate Research at UTSA with the Department Chair of Finance, Dr. Karan Bhanot. My research focused on Business Development Companies, discussing what they are and how they are affecting the private equity industry. My goal of this research project was to shed light on an understudied field and show how it could have an impact on one of the most lucrative industries in finance. My goal was also to gain a value experience in conducting a professional research study and aid me in my intellectual pursuits. Lastly, I wanted to take my research findings and impact the financial space from the inside out during my summer internship. This was such a wonderful opportunity and I am proud to say that I will be submitting my project for publication this fall in the UTSA Undergraduate Research Journal and the Developing Economist Undergraduate Journal at UT Austin.



SPICES

This project embodies the Intellectual Achievement category of SPICES, because of the intellect I was able to gain from successful completion of this project and through the intellect and knowledge I will be able to enlighten others with upon publication.

HERBS

Throughout this experience I developed an extreme level of resiliency. For it being my first research project, and working with the department chair, I wanted my research to be impressive and well-constructed. However, I exuded benevolence by giving myself grace and taking the advice of my faculty member.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

I learned so many valuable lessons from this experience. From my research I concluded that Business Development Companies have already started taking over the private equity industry with many of the top firms such as Blackrock, KKR, and others have created their own BDC's as part of their business structure. Also BDC's have made private investments more attainable by retail investors, causing private equity regulatory bureaus to look into adjustments that allow retail investors into the space. On a personal level I also learned that I was much more intellectually inclined than I thought I was. The project was constructed with no prior experience and I am very proud of the results.



IMPACT

This project was able to have much more impact than I ever thought it would! I originally constructed this project in order to add value to the intellectual property of the finance industry and to add value to my investment team during my summer internship! At the internship, I was placed on a business management team within the investments division to help them develop a product strategy plan and new idea. I was able to discuss my research findings with senior level management on the team, and other senior leaders in other divisions. The team was so impressed that they are currently looking into developing a Business Development Company investment strategy to utilize on the investments platform to offer to private wealth clients in the Private Bank!

ADVICE

The biggest piece of advice I would give is to never underestimate your abilities! If there is something you want to do but don't think you can do it, that is false! The very thing inside of you that gives you the desire is also the same thing inside of you that will give you the ability!