

Starter

NEWS, NOTES AND QUOTES



// BACK TO SCHOOL



Superintendents from around the country learned from Wake Forest University's faculty about financial management, negotiations, leadership and staff management.

SBI: THE THREE-DAY MINI-MBA

TWENTY-SIX SUPERINTENDENTS TRAVEL TO WINSTON-SALEM, N.C., FOR AN EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY THEIR TURF DEGREE STUDIES NEVER GAVE THEM.

BY GRANT B. GANNON // Associate Editor

➔ A selected group of 26 superintendents from across the United States traveled to Winston-Salem, N.C.'s Graylyn Estate for the ninth annual Syngenta Business Institute.

The three-day education program consisted of three- to four-hour classes on financial management, negotiations, leadership and staff management led by professors at Wake Forest University's School of Business. The goal of the classes and their respective instructors was not to talk at the attendees, but rather to create a conversation and include the superintendents in the class.

"I was kind of nervous when I saw the itinerary because there was a lot of material to cover and I was wondering if I could stay engaged that long," said Jared Stanek, superintendent at Des-

ert Willow Golf Resort, Palm Desert, Calif. "But the classes just flew by, and the instructors were just so great. It really far exceeded my expectations."

Throughout the program, attendees were encouraged to share their ideas with the group and work in pairs to brainstorm ideas to solve problems. They also participated in activities that made them think about concepts in ways they may not have before.

"Any superintendents who are looking into improving their staff and themselves from a leadership standpoint, SBI is a must-attend," said Jonathan Heywood, superintendent at Morris County Golf Club, Morristown, N.J. "Whether you're confident in your abilities or not, it's a place to come to hone and sharpen your skills."

// D.C.-YOU LATER

TAX REFORM A DOUBLE BOGEY FOR THE GOLF INDUSTRY

The Senate passed sweeping tax reform late last December by a vote of 51-48, and now some are predicting the new legislation, signed into law by multi-course owner President Donald Trump, could "severely harm" the golf industry.

Fox Business recently reported the new bill removes the tax break that allowed businesses to deduct up to 50 percent of entertainment, amusement or recreation expenses related to genuine business-related activities.

However, that exemption still applies toward the cost of business meals. So, professionals could conduct less business during a full-priced round of golf.

Jay Karen, CEO of the National Golf Course Owners Association told Fox Business that the industry will be affected but it's difficult to estimate if the results will be large or small.

// MO-A POA

TURF TRANSITION MOVES 2019 U.S. AMATEUR FOUR-BALL CHAMPIONSHIP FROM CHAMBERS BAY

The 2019 U.S. Amateur Four-Ball Championship will be relocated from Chambers Bay in University Place, Wash., to Bandon Dunes Golf Resort in Bandon, Ore., to accommodate a turfgrass transition project at Chambers Bay.

The ongoing project will transition the putting surfaces from fescue to *Poa annua* and provide long-term benefits to the facility, according to Matt Allen, general manager of Chambers Bay.

The 2019 U.S. Amateur Four-Ball Championship will be played May 25-29. The U.S. Amateur Four-Ball requires two courses for the stroke-play portion of the championship. The specific courses at Bandon Dunes to be used for the 2019 U.S. Amateur Four-Ball will be announced later.

Chambers Bay will host the 2021 U.S. Amateur Four-Ball Championship. The Home Course, in DuPont, Wash., will serve as the stroke-play co-host.