

Baylor University's Executive MBA program climbed *Financial Times*' 2009 rankings to No. 1 in Texas for percent salary increase and career progress rank.

"Baylor's program gave me an advantage," 2008 program graduate Doug Hawkins said.

Success stories from Dallas campus graduates show why the program deserves its position at the top.

"The Baylor program indeed is more valuable than a lot of other programs," 2009 Dallas EMBA graduate Hans De Graaff said.

De Graaff, who moved to the United States from The Netherlands eight years ago, became the Director of Supply Chain at Texas Instruments in his second year in the 21-month program.

Tiffany Smith received over a 30 percent salary increase when she transitioned from Samsung Mobile to Texas Instruments the semester before graduating.

Mike Boyter and Doug Hawkins, both 2008 graduates, received 20 percent salary increases after earning their master's degrees.

"With what I learned, the experience I had and the opportunity I had ... I don't know how any other school could have topped that," Boyter said.

Smith, manager of strategic marketing and at Texas Instruments Digital Signal Processing Business Unit, had her pick of schools from Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University or Cox School of Business at Southern Methodist University.

"In doing my market research, the Baylor name carried more weight outside of Texas than SMU," Smith said. "Baylor University is known across the United States."

Boyter decided to go back to school when he turned 30. He juggled a full-time job, full-time school and a wife and three kids. His hard work paid off when three years later he held an undergraduate degree and soon after, a master's degree from Baylor.

“The university understands that the majority of the people in the program are leaders in their company, and they work 40 plus hours a week, there's also travel, and some people have families that they need to take care of, so everything is done based in a team setting,” Smith said.

Hawkins began as a nurse and then moved to healthcare administration as vice president at Physicians Emergency Care Associated. With the addition of a master's degree, he became Tenet Healthcare's clinical best practice leader.

All four graduates demonstrate why Baylor has one of the best programs in the state.

“Baylor has so much more to offer than just rankings,” Hawkins said.