



Pledge from Koch Industries puts trading center at Wichita State on a fast track

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"Koch's support and active involvement send a positive message about the high quality of curriculum and instruction that the trading center will provide," said Rick LeCompte, chair of the Finance, Real Estate and Decision Sciences Department in the W. Frank Barton School of Business.

"Our discussions with Koch representatives really broadened the scope of our project," he said. "We changed it from being a cookie-cutter copy of other universities' labs to a center focused on integrating a unique interdisciplinary trading curriculum with our current finance curriculum. This focus is relevant to our community and beyond."

Dinkel echoed that assessment.

"This is an opportunity for WSU to create a program that has both breadth and depth," he said. "This comprehensive approach will offer greater value to both students and employers in our region."

The agreement also calls for Koch to provide subject matter experts and instructors for targeted programs in the trading center. That expertise will enable the Koch Global Trading Center to provide instruction in areas where the business school currently doesn't have faculty strengths, such as commodity and energy trading, LeCompte said.

An advisory board made up of business and community representatives also will help the WSU business school develop the trading center's mission.

The 800-square-foot Koch Global Trading Center will be located on the main floor of Clinton Hall. It will feature 30 work stations equipped with PCs supplying real-time comprehensive financial data, full-color LED tickers carrying stock and price information from multiple markets, and digital display panels with breaking news and financial information.

"With the pledge from Koch Industries as impetus, the WSU Foundation hopes to complete fundraising for the project within the next few months," said Elizabeth King, WSU Foundation president and CEO. The goal is to open the Koch Global Trading Center by summer of 2014.

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