Florida International University's College of Business Administration Hosts Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

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MIAMI--(BUSINESS WIRE)--February 12, 2008--Saturday, February 9, 2008, marked a significant milestone in the history of Florida International University. The College of Business Administration celebrated the opening of its new business building complex at University Park with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house.

We now have a beautiful, state-of-the-art business building complex that can serve as a home not only for our current students, faculty, and staff, but also for future generations of students, faculty, and staff, said Executive Dean Joyce J. Elam. This facility, which extends our business campus beyond the Ryder Business Park, has not been possible without the support of the university, particularly President Modesto A. Maidique, of our faculty, staff, students, and alumni, and our community.

What she noted started as a dream and a drawing on the back of a napkin in 2005, when the Building for Business Campaign was launched - the first capital campaign the university had ever undertaken, one component of which is its Building Complex Fund, culminating in its grand opening today.

The day’s events began with a complimentary breakfast in the building complex’s courtyard. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held in front of the Grand Atrium on the second floor of Student Hall. The formal program, held in the Ocean Bank Auditorium in Academic Hall and which included introductory remarks by Elam and a speech from Steve Odland, Chairman and CEO, Office Depot, Inc. Following the program, guests were treated to a lunch, again in the courtyard, and then to a tour of the building complex.

Our new Business Building Complex is indeed a symbol of how much our College of Business Administration has grown from its early days more than a quarter century ago. The perseverance and dedication of our faculty, staff, and community supporters who believed our world-class business school deserved a world-class facility has been rewarded.

Maidique noted that Elam has been the driving force behind the college’s rise to one of the nation’s leading business schools with an international reputation. She has demonstrated throughout her years at FIU, Dean Maidique noted, the same determination that she has demonstrated throughout her years at FIU, Dean Elam tackled this immense and important project to build the business school complex and followed it step by step - from the pouring of the concrete to the completion of the building.

The College of Business Administration’s Building Complex

The new business building complex consists of three distinct buildings in a diagonal design of interlocking forms at the heart of the University Park campus. The complex complements the climate and unique features of South Florida’s landscape.

Spiraling upwards, the buildings rise in gradient fashion from two to three stories, highlighted by a 65-foot main entrance lobby and connected by external access available to students and faculty as they move from building to building.

I believe our new facility captures the spirit of the business school. Its dramatic design, contemporary style, innovative structure, student-friendly spaces, and innovative educational technology reflect the sense of community, momentum, and entrepreneurial leadership that permeates the college today, Elam said.

In January, 2008, the new business building complex won the 2008 Award of Merit at the State of Florida’s Conference of Facility Planners, the only recognition possible through gifts from Wachovia Bank, Regions Bank, Morrison, Brown, Argiz & Farra, LLP, and the Assurant Group; and a Capital Markets Lab that includes financial databases and software.

Major Donors

Major donors to the Building Complex Fund include:

- R. Kirk Landon, former president and CEO of American Banker’s Insurance (now Assurant Group), hence the Landon Undergraduate School of Business
- Alvah H. Chapman, Jr. and Betty Chapman, former CEO and chairman, Knight Ridder, Miami, hence the Chapman Graduate School of Business
- Ocean Bank
- Office Depot, Inc.
- Armando Codina and Margarita Codina
- Bank of America
- Regions Bank
- Wachovia Bank, N.A.