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

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marked a significant milestone in the history of Florida International University's College of Business Administration as it celebrated the opening of its a ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house.

Source: Florida International University

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 South Florida and around the world, said Executive Dean Joyce J. Elam. This facility, which extends our business campus beyond the Ryder Business School, not have 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 ever undertaken, one component of which is its Building Complex Fund, culminated in its grand opening today.

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

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 the perseverance and dedication of our faculty, staff, and community supporters who believe our world-class business school deserved a world-class home.

Maidique noted that Elam has been the driving force behind the colleges rise to one of the nations leading business schools with an international reputation 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 grand opening today.

The College of Business Administrations 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 complements the climate and unique features of South Floridas landscape.

Spiraling upwards, the buildings rise in gradient fashion from two to three stories, highlighted by a 65-foot main entrance lobby and connected byexternal access is 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 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 Floridas Conference of Facility Planners the only high recognition. The complex includes:

Three-story Commons Hall, which houses the colleges administrative offices, an executive board room, Chapman Graduate School program management, Student Center, Student Learning Center, Preferred Care Partners, Inc. Student Organization Room, the Kaufman, Rossin & Company and IKON Office Services offices. Student Hall, a two-story building that includes a Special Events Center, offices for Executive and Professional Education and MBA Programs, the Bank of America Conference Room, Graham Family Resource Library, Alumni Circle Recruiters Lounge, and ten interview rooms.

Academic Hall, also two stories, which features the Ocean Bank Auditorium, a two-level, 300-seat auditorium; three 60-seat tiered classroom rooms; and possible through gifts from Wachovia Bank, Regions Bank, Morrison, Brown, Argiz & Farra, LLP, and the Assurant Group; and a Capital Markets Lab.

Major Donors

Major donors to the Building Complex Fund include:

R. Kirk Landon, former president and CEO of American Bankers 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 with

Ocean Bank

Office Depot, Inc.

Armando Codina and Margarita Codina

Bank of America

Regions Bank

Wachovia Bank, N.A.