Cargill pledges $120,000 to help make Koch Global Trading Center a success

Cargill Meat Solutions Corp. will contribute $120,000 to help Wichita State University establish the Koch Global Trading Center, the WSU Foundation announced today.

Trading goods on a global basis has been part of Cargill’s business for decades, so supporting efforts to teach students about financial and commodity markets seemed a good fit for the company, said Jody Horner, president of Cargill Meat Solutions.

“We’re an international company with operations in 67 countries, and trading is an important part of what we do,” Horner said.

The Koch Global Trading Center is slated to open this summer in Clinton Hall, home to the W. Frank Barton School of Business. Equipped with real-time quotes, international data feeds and analysis software, the center will help prepare students for careers in the financial and commodity markets. It also will educate students about the impact trading activities have on all aspects of a business.

Cargill’s gift will be recognized with the company’s name on an LED stock ticker that will be installed near the entrance to the trading center.

With the donation from Cargill, the WSU Foundation’s efforts to raise $1 million to establish the center and create an operational endowment took a big step forward, said Elizabeth King, WSU Foundation president and CEO.

“We are pleased to have raised $850,000 so far from our corporate friends and loyal alums,” King said. “But our work continues. For the trading center to be a successful learning environment, we must reach the goal of $1 million.”

Bill Chandler, Cargill’s vice president of risk management for beef, serves on the advisory group that is helping the Barton School establish the trading center. Cargill, which employs more than 1,100 people in Wichita, has been a longtime supporter of Wichita State, funding science and math education efforts such as The Jason Project and Kansas BEST, as well as athletic programs.

-More-
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January 13, 2014

Page 2

Media note: Photographs of Jody Horner and Bill Chandler can be found at www.wichita.edu/foundationphotos

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