The Weatherhead School is positioned perfectly to serve as a catalyst in bringing business and business schools together to improve lives and reduce poverty.

~ Chuck Fowler (MGT ’90)

In February, Case Western Reserve University received a $7.5 million commitment from Chuck Fowler (MGT ’90), a graduate of the Weatherhead Executive MBA Program and member of the university’s Board of Trustees, and his wife, Char. The Fowlers’ generous gift will support sustainable enterprise initiatives at the Weatherhead School of Management, specifically the establishment of a chaired professorship in sustainable enterprise, support for research, creation of teaching materials, and operation of the Fowler Center for Sustainable Value, formerly the Center for Business as an Agent of World Benefit.

“We are deeply grateful to Char and Chuck Fowler for this gift,” Case Western Reserve President Barbara R. Snyder says. “It will make a measurable impact on Weatherhead’s ability to advance knowledge and understanding regarding these ideas, which in turn will positively influence practices around the world.”

Fowler—president and CEO of Ohio-based Fairmount Minerals Ltd., the third-largest industrial sand producer in the United States—has long championed the importance of sustainable initiatives in his professional activities. In 2007 he delivered the Weatherhead commencement address, where he focused on the capability of businesses “doing well by doing good.”

The American Chamber of Commerce has recognized Fairmount Minerals as a leader of corporate social responsibility. “Every business decision is made with the three P’s in mind,” Fowler says. “People, planet, and prosperity.”

In addition to the Fowlers’ personal commitments, Fairmount Minerals has played a major role in advancing sustainable enterprise initiatives at the Weatherhead School of Management. In 2006, the company’s generous $2 million gift established the Fairmount Minerals Chair in Social Entrepreneurship, currently held by Professor David Cooperrider, creator of Appreciative Inquiry.

Cooperrider, who has already helped Case Western Reserve become an international leader in pioneering social entrepreneurship, corporate responsibility, and sustainable business practices, is responsible for teaching and promoting the ideals of sustainability upon which Fairmount Minerals was built.

The company also established the Fairmount Minerals Seed Fund to support programs in the areas of social responsibility and sustainable business, enhancing the goals and programs of the Fowler Center and supporting its global forum.