

# Building Campus Community

Kelvin and Eleanor Smith Foundation commits \$7 million to university center

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—Ellen Stirn Mavec

The Kelvin and Eleanor Smith Foundation recently bolstered plans for Case Western Reserve University’s Tinkham Veale University Center with a \$7 million commitment.

“My grandparents really wanted to encourage and support individuals in the pursuit and fulfillment of their dreams,” Ellen Stirn Mavec, president of the Kelvin and Eleanor Smith Foundation, says about the Smiths. “They would be excited about the possibility of a central place on campus that brings people together for conversation and to enjoy one another.”

A longtime supporter of the university, the foundation is named for A. Kelvin Smith (CIT ’22)—a co-founder of the specialty chemical company Lubrizol Corp. in Wickliffe, Ohio—and his wife, Eleanor Armstrong Smith. The foundation’s previous support of the university includes the Kelvin Smith Library, which was dedicated in 1996.

“The Kelvin and Eleanor Smith Foundation already has helped transform our university with its previous support,” says President Barbara R. Snyder. “We are honored by this additional commitment to a project that has great potential to enhance the sense of community on our campus.”

A. Kelvin Smith, who died in 1984, was a trustee of the Case Institute of Technology, from which he received an honorary doctorate in 1947. He later became a charter trustee of the newly federated Case Western Reserve University. In 1976, he and his brother Kent Smith (CIT ’17) shared the university’s alumni achievement award.

“The university center will provide a means for attracting the best and brightest students, faculty and staff,” Mavec says, citing her grandfather’s oft-quoted refrain, “Education is crucial for our country, for success in business and for the dignity and growth of an individual.”



**Kelvin and Eleanor Smith** established the Kelvin and Eleanor Smith Foundation in 1955. The foundation supports nonprofits that make a difference in Cleveland by adhering to excellence in their mission, creativity in approach and fiscal responsibility.



**Ellen Stirn Mavec** talks about her grandparents’ continuing legacy on campus during the February Board of Trustees Dinner.



**Celebrating the Kelvin and Eleanor Smith Foundation’s** announcement with President Barbara R. Snyder (center) were (from left) Charles Bolton, J.T. Mullen, Ellen Stirn Mavec and Bill La Place, who are among the foundation’s board members.