

\$10.5 Million Challenge

Foundation's grant will attract more funding for university center project

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Kent Hale and Thelma Smith

“ Kent Smith’s achievements as a scientist, businessman and acting university president are inspirational. It is our hope that the university center will serve to uplift students, as well.”

—President Barbara R. Snyder



Kent H. Smith Charitable Trust Trustees William B. La Place (left) and Phillip A. Ranney celebrate the announcement of the foundation's challenge grant along with President Barbara R. Snyder.

A lead gift ignited fundraising efforts for Case Western Reserve University's Tinkham Veale University Center. A recent challenge grant from the Kent H. Smith Charitable Trust is stoking the flames.

The trust—named for Kent Hale Smith (CIT '17), a founder of the specialty chemical company Lubrizol Corporation and a former acting president of Case Institute of Technology—has committed to a \$10.5 million challenge grant that aims to attract other donors to this catalytic building project. The gift, which was announced this fall during the President's Circle and Board of Trustees Dinner, includes a \$500,000 grant from the Vincent K. and Edith H. Smith Memorial Trust.

"We wanted to make a contribution to student life consistent with the level of dedication that Kent and Thelma showed for the institution throughout their lives," says Phillip A. Ranney (LAW '61), a trustee of the Kent H. Smith Charitable Trust. "Kent had an open-door policy for students when he was acting president, and Thelma frequently visited campus to watch the students in their daily lives. They would both be very pleased to see this project take shape."

The Tinkham Veale University Center will be a bustling hub for students, faculty and staff to congregate and collaborate.

The Kent H. Smith Charitable Trust was established in 1971. Originally known as the 1525 Foundation, the trust has been a long-time donor to the university. Its previous support includes the Kelvin Smith Library, the Kent H. Smith Professors for Case School of Engineering, the Elmer G. Beamer-Hubert H. Schneider Chair in Ethics at the College of Arts and Sciences and the Kent Hale Smith Building, which houses the Department of Macromolecular Science and Engineering.

The Matching Challenge Tradition

Thirty years after his death, Kent Hale Smith's style of engaging donors through challenge gifts lives on through his foundation.

William B. La Place, a trustee of the Kent H. Smith Charitable Trust, says that Smith would commonly meet with friends, tell them that he had given a gift to Case Western Reserve and ask that they consider matching it.

"Kent was a spirited volunteer fundraiser throughout his years of service to the university, so it is particularly appropriate that this gift be given as a challenge to encourage other donors to step up and make this project a reality," La Place says.

