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Investment center opens at CSUF

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Made possible by a \$1.5 million donation by Cal State Fullerton alumnus Jeffrey Van Harte last year, the university's Mihaylo College of Business and Economics community gathered on Dec. 2 to celebrate the opening of its first investment management center.

Named the Titan Capital Management Center, it will house the college's Applied Securities Analysis Program (ASAP), also founded with Van Harte's assistance.

The program centers on portfolio management and how to invest in the marketplace; it gives students firsthand experience in securities analysis and portfolio management using real dollars.

Van Harte's recent donation will help to grow ASAP investment funds and allow more students to participate.

The Titan Capital Management Center is made up of a high-tech and interactive classroom and a conference room. In the coming semester, select students will receive 24 hour access to the conference room to work on ASAP group projects

With access to Bloomberg terminals, the new classroom mimics the software and work environment students may find in financial institutions' trading floors across the country and the world, said ASAP director Michael Milligan.

"The Titan Capital Management room and Bloomberg (terminals) will allow our students to hone their skill sets, to make them more desirable," he said.

Van Harte, chairman and chief investment officer of Jackson Square Partners, graduated from CSUF with a bachelor's degree in business administration-finance in 1980.

His donations to the university go back more than a decade.

"Every time that I meet with Jeff I get the same feeling – that he is a student who just can't wait to be on this campus, who can not wait to spend time here with students," said Anil Puri, interim provost and vice president for academic affairs.

Puri is the former dean of the Mihaylo College of Business and Economics, as well as Van Harte's former microeconomics professor .

"We are very proud to have this program and this lab named after him," he said.

The Titan Capital Management Center will additionally allow faculty to engage with students in a more profound manner, said Morteza Rahmatian, interim dean of the Mihaylo College of Business and Economics.

"Titan Capital Management enhances the Mihaylo College of Business and Economics' ability to offer exceptional classes to our students," Rahmatian said. "This is truly a high-impact practice for our students who can really enjoy the kind of experience this provides."

"We need to set ourselves apart from the hundreds of business schools around," he said. "This opportunity for our students is clearly a unique opportunity that not a lot of business programs can afford to have."

For Van Harte, it's all about the students.

"I feel like I have this moral obligation to give back," Van Harte told the Register in 2015 when asked about his donation. "I know how much my degree meant to me and how much it helped me."

"For me, it's really about the time spent helping kids get on track the early parts of their careers," he said.

His comments at the grand opening ceremony focused on the years-long collaboration between administrators, faculty, staff and students that made the ASAP program and Titan Capital Management Center realities.

"Vision really starts with a thought," Van Harte said.

"It was such a collaborative effort," he said. "By the time it got rolling, so many people had collaborated and thought about how we could design this program that it was really lost on me whose idea it really was."

Feedback from students was also key in putting together the program and center, he said.

CSUF President Mildred García praised Van Harte for his continuous donations to the university.

"He also offers his time and talent to students," García said. "He sits with them and gives them guidance."

"He exemplifies Titans Reach Higher not only by giving with his resources but by his time, his heart and his soul," she said. "And we are very lucky to have him as a Titan."

"It's not only about what you make of yourself in your life, it's how you give back and give to others," she said.

Van Harte pointed out that the new center is a testament of what could be at CSUF.

"This is really the result of a change in culture and the change of a thinking template that needs to occur in higher public education especially at state university (level)," Van Harte said. "So this program is really the result of a collaboration between the private sector and the public sector."

"Look what we did with just a little bit of money and a lot people," he said.

Aside from serving as a mentor for finance students, Van Harte is also the chairman of the CSUF Philanthropic Foundation's board of governors.

He was honored in 2012 as a CSUF Vision & Visionaries distinguished alumnus.

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