

Investing in Education – Mills College

Since our very first year as a 501.c.3 Operating Foundation we have invested heavily in the education of today's students as a means of bringing about a more hope-filled tomorrow. Mills College is among the many educational institutions we have supported.

Mills College of California

Support for Mills College began with the endowment of an interdisciplinary course, co-taught by Mills faculty from the German and Music departments, entitled "An Die Musik: German Poetry and Music." The course covered materials from the Middle Ages to the 20th century, highlighting the 19th century when dramatic and lyric poems by Goethe, his contemporaries and followers were set to music by composers such as Schubert, Schumann and many others. After the retirement of Dr. Elisabeth Siekhaus, the endowment was modified as a scholarship. Other support for the music program included: endowing and expanding the charter of the Mills Performing Group; bringing American Music Center career resources on campus; providing funds for needed repairs to electronic equipment; underwriting a two-year residency for the Grammy-Quartet San Francisco to work and perform with students and faculty; and endowing an Aaron Rosand Music Lesson Scholarship Fund. The Foundation was also the first major donor towards a nascent MBA program with a grant towards an Elfenworks Lectureship on Leadership, Ethics and Entrepreneurship. We provided three-years of funding sufficient to establish and sustain a Center for Responsible Business (CRB). Other hands-on support from the Foundation has included developing a website for their CRB, and serving on the External Advisory Board for the Graduate School of Business through three successive changes of administration.



Figure 1 Above, our CEO (fourth from the right) at the groundbreaking for the new Graduate School of Business building. Photo courtesy Mills College.



FEEDBACK FROM MILLS COLLEGE

- *In 2001, the very first year of the Mills MBA program, this was our first major gift, endowing one of our required core courses, Ethics, Leadership and Entrepreneurship. An endowed gift means that the Mills Graduate School of Business will always have as a requirement that all of its students study ethical behavior in business and make it a priority in their professional lives. As you may recall, 2001 was a time of great national concern over corporate scandal and corruption. (Elfenworks) saw the significance of an ethics requirement and made this gift when our program had only 12 students and many MBA programs were not even requiring that their students take a course in ethics. This foresight and generosity were extraordinarily important to those of us undertaking the establishment of a new professional degree program focused on creating more women business leaders. The confidence demonstrated in our ability to achieve this goal was extremely significant in the first year of our program as it helped to validate what we were doing and inspired others to become involved. I will forever be grateful. —Nancy Thornborrow, Dean, February 22, 2007*
- *You have made Mills' Center for Socially Responsible Business possible. The entire Mills community is fortunate that you recognize and nurture the abilities of talented women and value the positive effects of education in improving people's lives and our world. —Janet Holmgren, President, May 8, 2008*
- *We are especially grateful for your vision and generosity in establishing the Center for Socially Responsible Business (CSRB). The CSRB strengthens our MBA program's foci on the integration of ethical principles into business decision-making and understanding how business activities impact human welfare and the natural environment. With your partnership, Mills is preparing entrepreneurial women to become tomorrow's leaders of business and non-profit organizations around the world. Thanks to you, Mills will educate more women to be collaborative leaders who understand how important diversity, ethical leadership, social responsibility, and sustainability are to business success. —Janet Holmgren, President, May 27, 2010*