



Office of Communications

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TEXAS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY RECEIVES \$500,000 FOR NEW SCIENCE BUILDING

Longtime community leaders and philanthropists Ed and Rae Schollmaier have pledged a \$500,000 gift to Texas Wesleyan University for the construction of the new Science and Technology Center. Their gift will be made through the Schollmaier Foundation.

The \$2 million Science and Technology Center will be a 7,000 square-foot facility housing six SMART classrooms, four faculty offices, two multimedia seminar rooms, a student lounge and a kitchen. The Center will support a variety of science and math programs, benefiting all of Wesleyan's students. More specifically, it will allow the science departments to enhance curriculum with bioinformatics technology.

Texas Wesleyan President Harold Jeffcoat said the state-of-the art building will enhance educational opportunities for Wesleyan students. "It's part of our ongoing commitment to excel in undergraduate education. The Schollmaiers' gift will help students prepare for careers in science and technology. The genomics lab will give students access to facilities not normally found in undergraduate education."

Ed Schollmaier is the former chairman and CEO of Alcon Laboratories, Inc., which has a longstanding relationship with Texas Wesleyan University. The Alcon Foundation has also pledged \$250,000 for the science building. Alcon has generously donated to Texas Wesleyan University for more than 40 years by providing grants, internships, and partnerships in many projects. Many Wesleyan graduates, especially those with science degrees, work for Alcon.

Among the reasons for donating was the quality of Texas Wesleyan University graduates who went on to careers at Alcon. "We always had Texas Wesleyan students contributing to the growth and success at Alcon," said Ed Schollmaier. Among those were George Leone, a Wesleyan trustee and former head of science and technology at Alcon, and Bob Carter, who was the first manufacturing vice president at Alcon. "We thought the gift would be a nice way to recognize these people for their contributions to Alcon."

John Maddux, chairman of the Wesleyan Board of Trustees, said, "The Schollmaiers' generous gift is an investment in the future of our students. The gift to Texas Wesleyan exemplifies their

philanthropic spirit and commitment to community giving. The Board of Trustees appreciates the Schollmaiers' support of the University and its future science graduates."

In addition to The Schollmaier Foundation funding and The Alcon Foundation pledge, the University has received other gifts, including a \$969,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Energy for the Science and Technology Center. The new building will be located between the Ella C. McFadden Science Center and the Oneal Sells Administration Building.

The groundbreaking is scheduled for 1 p.m. Friday, April 21. The building is scheduled for completion in January 2007.