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FRED C. AND MARY R. KOCH FOUNDATION AND KOCH INDUSTRIES TO DONATE \$400,000 TO SUPPORT DIVERSITY AT K-STATE

MANHATTAN — The Fred C. and Mary R. Koch Foundation and Koch Industries, Inc. have announced donations totaling \$400,000 to the Kansas State University office of diversity to increase enrollment of multicultural students and help them succeed in college.

The grants will support Project IMPACT to provide recruiting and mentoring programs, scholarships and a diversity faculty fellowship in the K-State department of accounting. The Fred C. and Mary R. Koch Foundation's contribution of \$220,000 will fund a College for a Day program at K-State for high school and community college students. Koch Industries will donate \$180,000 for programming that focuses on student scholarships, mentoring and retention.

"Our goal is to change the way our students think about their lives," said Liz Koch, president of the Fred C. and Mary R. Koch Foundation. "We want to help young people envision the possibilities open to them and what more they can achieve if they will pursue a college education. The opportunities are endless."

"Koch companies are committed to fostering a diverse work force and creating opportunities for students of all backgrounds," said Dale Gibbens, vice president, human resources for Koch Industries, Inc. "We are pleased to partner with K-State to help minority students prepare for successful careers whether at Koch or other companies."

Myra Gordon, K-State's associate provost for diversity and dual career development, said more African-American and Hispanic students are graduating from high school than ever before, but many are not going to college. In addition, many who start college don't stay to graduate.

"For many multicultural students, the problem is often lack of exposure and academic under-preparedness," Gordon said. "For others, the problem may be cultural or financial. But whatever the reason, we need to be aggressive about fixing the problems."

The four-year commitment to Project IMPACT includes:

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