



College of Technology and Computer Science

Office of the Dean

East Carolina University

Science and Technology Bldg. Suite 100 • Greenville, NC 27858-4353

252-328-9600 office • 252-328-9635 dean • 252-328-4250 fax • www.tecs.ecu.edu

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Organization contributes to ECU Department of Construction Management foundation

GREENVILLE, N.C. (10/16/08) — A local organization has made an investment in the future of East Carolina University's Department of Construction Management. On Wednesday, October 15, 2008, at its monthly meeting, The Coastal Plains Chapter of the Professional Construction Estimators Association (PCEA) presented a \$5,000 check Oct. 15 to ECU construction management department chair Douglas Kruger. The donation will benefit the Kruger-Williams Society, a foundation set up to endow the program in their honor.

Kruger and Sue Williams, an administrative assistant in Construction Management, will retire in June 2009 after devoting more than 60 combined years of service to East Carolina and the Department of Construction Management.

Jim Parker, a construction management alum and current president of the PCEA Coastal Plains Chapter, said Kruger has made an impact on his students both inside and outside the classroom. Additionally, Parker said when he ran into Sue Williams 16 years after he'd graduated, she still remembered his name.

"Dr. Kruger and Mrs. Sue have built the construction management into one of the top five programs in the country," said Parker, also an estimator for WIMCO General Contractors in Washington, N.C. "Each member of our chapter has benefitted personally and professionally for their efforts and this is a chance for us to show our appreciation."

The goal of the Kruger-Williams Society is raise \$6 million dollars to operationally endow the construction program. Proposed uses for the endowment include: student activities; research opportunities; faculty and staff development; and learning opportunities in and out of the classroom.

"I have been associated with the PCEA Coastal Plains Chapter since 1991, and it's a great group of people," said Kruger. "We have always looked at our program as a family. Every year it gets bigger and better, but the people, our students, faculty and alumni, are what is the most important to our success."

Since its establishment this summer, the Kruger-Williams Society has raised more than \$43,000. Foundation supporters hope to reach the \$1 million mark before Kruger and Williams' retirement in June 2009.

Contact: Chris Stansbury, Communications Coordinator for the College of Technology and Computer Science at (252) 328-9611.