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Former Professor Leaves \$2.4 Million to SIUE

(EDWARDSVILLE, Ill.) The Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Foundation recently received notification of the largest single bequest in the history of the University—a \$2.4 million gift to benefit the SIUE School of Business.

The gift will be made by the estate of Homer L. Cox, a business professor who taught in the School from 1967 until his retirement in December 1978. He and his wife, Helen, who passed away in 1995, lived in Sun City, Ariz. Cox died this past May 12 at the age of 93.

G. Patrick Williams, vice chancellor for University Relations and CEO of the SIUE Foundation, said the Cox gift is an affirmation of the important work being done by educators at SIUE. “This gift is an important milestone in the work we’ve been doing in development at the University,” Williams said. “The generosity of donors such as Homer Cox shows a strong dedication to this University,” Williams said.

The gift is earmarked to fund scholarships in the SIUE School of Business.

A native of Jonesboro, Tenn., Cox had been a professor of business communication at Bowling Green State University in Ohio for a year before coming to SIUE. He also was an associate professor at the University of Colorado in Boulder and at Northwestern University in Chicago. Cox taught high school in Nokomis, Park Ridge, Jerseyville, and Elmhurst before turning to higher education.

He earned a degree from Illinois State University in 1936 and a master’s and a doctorate in business education, both from Northwestern, in 1945 and 1955, respectively.

School of Business Dean Gary A. Giamartino said he was humbled by news of the gift. “Homer Cox taught at several places earlier in his career, yet he chose to give such a large gift to SIUE,” Giamartino said. “I am moved by his vision and generosity that will help shape the education of business students for years to come,” he said.

-30-

SIUE Vision Statement

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, as a premier Metropolitan University, will be recognized nationally for the excellence of its programs and development of professional and community leaders.