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LINDENWOOD

\$3M software gift boosts fashion design program

Lindenwood University has announced it will receive a \$3 million gift of software from Lectra, headquartered in Paris, France.

Lindenwood will use industry-leading fashion and textile CAD software, U4ia and Modaris, in its fashion design program, providing students the opportunity to train in textile design (U4ia) and patternmaking (Modaris).

Lindenwood is the only university in Missouri implementing this CAD software program into its curriculum, said Florence Dewan, a fashion design professor at Lindenwood who worked with Lectra to secure the donation.

Lectra is the world leader in the design and distribution of software and hardware dedicated to the major industrial users of textiles, leather and other soft materials. Lectra's global team of 1,350 employees serves 16,000 customers in more than 100 countries.

"We are grateful to Lectra for this tremendous gift," said Lindenwood President Dennis Spellmann. "And we are excited for our students, who will have the best tools in the industry to prepare them for a careers in fashion and retail business industries. Coupling these tools with the dynamic faculty and gifted students promises to catapult our program and help meet the industry needs for the future."

Lectra's national director of marketing, Tim Copeland, said the company was aware of Lindenwood University's respected faculty and its commitment to putting students first in everything it does.

"We are looking forward to a tremendous partnership with Lindenwood University," said Copeland. "Lectra and Lindenwood have a common commitment to excellence. We will all benefit from this partnership; but most importantly, the students will be the biggest winners."

Marsha Parker, dean of fine and performing arts at Lindenwood, said the benefit of the gift was actually threefold.

"It enhances our academic programs, improves employability of our graduates and provides an economic benefit for corporations," she said. "If a May Company, Target or Sears, hires a Lindenwood graduate, they will not have to incur the cost of training that employee in this state-of-the-art software, which is in use all over the world."

Copeland said Lindenwood would receive the software in mid-summer, in time for installation and training prior to the beginning of the fall semester.

Press Release Contact:

Public Relations
Lindenwood University
publicRelations@lindenwood.edu

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Switchboard (636) 949-2000
Undergraduate Admissions (636) 949-4949
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