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Lindenwood University - Campus News

Grant will Facilitate Distance Learning for St. Charles, Belleville

12/22/2011

Lindenwood University has been named the recipient of a \$114,000 joint grant from the William T. Kemper Foundation and Commerce Bancshares Foundation. The money will be used to equip a classroom in the School of Business and Entrepreneurship on the university's St. Charles campus with distance learning technologies.

Lindenwood will match the grant to construct another distance learning classroom at its campus in Belleville, Ill. The arrangement will make it possible for students in Illinois to participate in classes at the Missouri campus.

"The classrooms will be wired with special audio and visual equipment so that one professor can teach a course to students at both locations simultaneously," said Roger Ellis, dean of the School of Business and Entrepreneurship. "This interactive, real-time format will eliminate costly and timely commutes and create more flexible and convenient course offerings for our students."

Both new classrooms are expected to be finished by the beginning of the fall 2012 semester. The university will initially offer business courses through the distance learning format but seeks to expand the technology to other programs in the future.

"We are excited to adopt this delivery method and we expect it to have a positive impact on our students and staff alike," Ellis said. "We hope to nurture this program and replicate it throughout Lindenwood's other schools as we move forward."

The William T. Kemper Foundation was established in 1989, following the native Missourian's death. The organization is dedicated to furthering Kemper's lifelong interest in improving the human condition and quality of life through philanthropic efforts concentrated on the areas of education, health and human services, civic improvements, and the arts.

The Commerce Bancshares Foundation is a subsidiary Commerce Bancshares, Inc., a \$19 billion regional bank holding company. The foundation invests more than a million dollars annually in community and charitable programs.