NEWS

MesaStateCollege
Office of Development
1100 North Avenue
Grand Junction, CO 81501-3122
Phone: 970-248-1868
Fax: 970-248-1076
www.mesastate.edu

For Immediate Release: Jan. 08, 2010 **Contact: Dana Nunn** **970.248.1868**
970.640.0421

Mesa State opens new Maverick Center

Recognizes generous donors in naming ceremonies

Grand Junction – Mesa State College today celebrated the completion of the three-year project to expand and renovate Saunders Fieldhouse and gave the building a new name - the Maverick Center.

"In addition to the wonderful fitness and athletic venues, we have also added 14 classrooms and state-of-the-art labs for our Health Sciences program," said Mesa State President Tim Foster. "Basically, the building is so much more than a field house now and was deserving of a new name."

In addition to giving the building a new name, eight components of the Maverick Center were named. The new student recreation center was named the Hamilton Recreation Center in recognition of all the support the college has received from Jamie Hamilton, president and CE0 of Home Loan.

"Jamie really is Mr. Maverick! He was a stand-out athlete when he was a student here. He's a member of our Hall of Honor. He served as a trustee and I think everyone remembers that he was our athletic director for $1 a year," Foster said. "He has been very generous to Mesa State in all ways possible."

The new athletic training room was named the Copeland Family Athletic Training Room in recognition of 30 years of support for Mesa State from Dr. Larry Copeland and his family.

The new natatorium, which features an Olympic-sized pool and seating for 750, was named the El Pomar Natatorium. The El Pomar Foundation donated $500,000 to the project.

Three nursing laboratories were named; one for St. Mary's Hospital, one for retired nurse Helen Krey and the third for Geno and Virginia Saccomanno.. St. Mary's have been very supportive of the Health Sciences program at Mesa State. Krey and her husband Max are long-time benefactors of the college. The Saccomanno family has long been generous to the college.

The Monfort Family Human Performance Lab was formally named in recognition of a $500,000 gift from the Monfort Family Foundation. Colorado Rockies founding owner and CEO Charlie Monfort serves as the chairman of the Mesa State Board of Trustees.

The Walter Walker Tribute Wall was also unveiled. It features a video chronicling the lives of Walther and Pres Walker, including their contributions to the community and to Mesa State. It was made possible through the generosity of Ken Johnson and his family, who gave Mesa state its first million-dollar donation from an individual.

The $41 million project included adding almost 200,000 square-feet and renovating 125,000 square-feet. It was funded by the college, the state and more than $6 million in private donations.

“Our purpose for being is to educate students. To do that we must both attract and retain students. Today’s students expect modern, high-tech facilities,” Foster said.

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