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Clemson University receives $2.5 million donation

Staff Reports

CLEMSON — Metromont Corp. President and CEO Rick Pennell honored his father — as well as a long-term family commitment to the development industry — with a gift to Clemson University that names the Richard H. Pennell Center for Real Estate Development on Friday.

The $2.5 million gift will support the center's activities with students, faculty and professionals as they seek better ways to build more sustainable communities. The Richard H. Pennell Center for Real Estate Development is a joint venture between Clemson's College of Architecture, Arts and Humanities and the College of Business and Behavioral Science, a relationship that mirrors the complex nature of real estate development.

"We are grateful to the Pennell family for the dedication they show to their industry now and the commitment they make to the future," said Clemson University President James F. Barker. "This gift will have a tremendous impact on our efforts to produce the next generation of innovators and leaders in real estate design, construction and development."

Pennell also said that the center brings together students from various disciplines, just as real estate development brings together various professions in the working world.

The Greenville-based company has projects that range from parking structures and thermal-efficient wall systems for schools and office buildings, to affordable hurricane-resistant housing in New Orleans.