Clemson real estate center gets $2.5 million gift

Facility to be named for Richard H. Pennell, Metromont board chairman

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CLEMSON – A Greenville family's $2.5 million gift to Clemson University will benefit a center that serves students, faculty and real estate professionals interested in building sustainable communities, Clemson officials said Friday.

The existing center now will be named the Richard H. Pennell Center for Real Estate Development, honoring the board chairman of Greenville-based Metromont Corp.

The 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," said Clemson President Jim Barker.

"I have known Dick Pennell for almost 25 years now," Barker said. "When I returned to Clemson in 1986 as dean of the College of Architecture, Dick quickly became a good friend and one of my most trusted advisers."

Rick Pennell, president and chief executive officer and third generation of his family to run the pre-cast concrete company, said the gift honors his father, a 1950 Clemson alumnus, and was inspired by the blend of disciplines offered through the center.

"It intrigued me that the program has students from architecture, landscape architecture and business, and marries them in a unique curriculum," he said. "The center touches on everything we do at Metromont."

Metromont "is clearly a leader in an industry that is vital to helping make a difference in building better and more sustainable communities" said center direc-

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