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Fred C. and Mary R. Koch Foundation makes grant to support economics students at K-State

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The Fred C. and Mary R. Koch Foundation, Wichita, Kan., has made a \$9,000 grant to the Department of Economics in the College of Arts and Sciences at Kansas State University.

The grant will fund the department's Economic Prosperity Lecture Series, which brings professionals in the field of economics to K-State. Guest speakers are able to share their expertise with students, helping them gain insight into their future careers and areas of study. A portion of the grant also supports undergraduate research in economics, enabling up to five students to travel to the Economics Scholars Program for Undergraduate Research, to be held in Dallas, Texas, on April 1, 2011.

The first lecture of the 2010-2011 academic year is Tuesday, Nov. 16, and will feature Brian Brenberg, assistant professor of business and economics at The King's College, New York. Brenberg will discuss "Innovation: How it occurs and the prosperity it creates." A graduate of Harvard Business School with an MBA, Brenberg also earned an MPA from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. He was selected as a Publius Fellow by the Claremont Institute while at Harvard.

The Fred C. and Mary R. Koch Foundation was established in 1953 and focuses its resources on not-for-profit organizations in Kansas that significantly enhance the state's quality of life through arts, environmental stewardship, human services, enablement of at-risk youth, and education.

In 1940, Fred Koch co-founded the Wood River Oil and Refining Co., Inc., the predecessor of Koch Industries, Inc., located in Wichita, Kan. Mary Koch was a dedicated member of the Kansas arts community, and her interest and support of higher education enabled many talented youth to pursue a college education. In addition to the Department of Economics, the Koch Foundation has provided support for the Primary Texts Certificate Program, offered through K-State's Department of English, and the College of Business Administration.

Philanthropic contributions to K-State are coordinated by the Kansas State University Foundation. The foundation staff works with university partners to build lifelong relationships with alumni, friends, faculty, staff and students through involvement and investment in the university.