

\$1 million donation made to Foundation by Williamson

PIA BRADY
Assistant News Editor

Local philanthropist Warren P. Williamson Jr., founder and chairman of the WKBN Broadcasting Corporation of Youngstown, has made a \$1 million contribution to the YSU Foundation.

The YSU Foundation, which is an important monetary contributor to YSU, is in the process of situating a Williamson Business College Fund with part of Williamson's contribution. The Williamson Business College Fund will maintain a Williamson Center for International Business in YSU's Warren P. Williamson Jr. College of Business Administration.

C. Reid Schmutz, president of the YSU Foundation, said "The money directs us to provide both growth and income to YSU." Schmutz also said he is interested in having the money grow and keep pace with inflation.

Schmutz emphasized that the Williamson Center for International Business is the first project

involving the funds. However, Schmutz said the contribution document also allows for other projects that a "committee will deem to be important" in the future.

Schmutz said that "a committee consisting [of] President [Leslie] Cochran, Dr. James S. Cicarelli, business administration, two Williamson family members [or someone they would choose to serve in their absence], [himself] and two members appointed by the foundation" will preside over The Williamson College Fund."

Schmutz said in order for YSU to get funding from the YSU Foundation they must "sell an idea to the committee." However, "the University [does have an opportunity to] get creative in what it wants" the funds to be directed towards.

Schmutz said, "The reason [the Williamsons] gave to YSU is because they made money in Youngstown [and they] feel the need to give back" to the community. Schmutz also said Williamson has a "great sense of

community pride which carried over to his sons who were instrumental" in assisting YSU with the Williamson Center for International Business.

The funds from Williamson "give us leeway to do the best job for YSU and Youngstown," Schmutz said.

The Williamson Center for International Business will bring Williamson college undergraduates and graduates to the "standards of the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business."

It also will enable foreign business professionals to learn about businesses in the United States and Northeast Ohio for a period of time, as well as enable students, faculty and business professionals to exchange knowledge concerning commercial and cultural business.

Other uses for the center include assisting local businesses in their efforts to "expand exports" throughout the world and encourage relations between the Mahoning Valley, "sister" cities and Eastern Europe.