



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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With Equity Bank pledge, fundraising for Charles Koch Arena project nears goal

The Wichita State University Foundation and WSU Athletics have raised nearly three-fourths of the \$12 million needed to build a new academic and athletic performance center for student-athletes and to update offices and other spaces inside Charles Koch Arena.

A substantial pledge from Equity Bank recently pushed the fundraising campaign to just more than \$8.8 million. In recognition of the gift commitment, a glass-enclosed walkway connecting Charles Koch Arena to the new Wichita State Athletics Student Center will be named the Equity Bank Walkway of Champions.

With more than \$2 billion in assets, Equity Bank got its start as a community bank in Andover. It has 34 branches, four of them serving the Wichita area.

“We would not be where we are today without our partnerships over the years with Wichita State,” said Brad Elliott, Equity Bank chairman and CEO. “We employ and rely on a number of alumni, current students and student-athletes to function as a bank. We’re proud to help support Shocker student-athletes as they work toward championships on and off the field.”

The Charles Koch Arena project has three main parts:

- Construction of the Student Center, a three-level complex with a study hall nearly twice as large as the existing one inside the arena. Other features will include a strength-and-conditioning center, training room and a student lounge. The 48,000-square-foot center will be built just south of Charles Koch Arena.
- Renovation of coaches’ and administrative offices inside Charles Koch Arena. The offices for men’s and women’s basketball as well as volleyball will be expanded and updated. Offices for track and field, cross country and golf will be moved to the Student Center, nearly doubling space for offices in Charles Koch Arena.
- Moving the Shocker retail store to a larger space in the arena and renovating and reconfiguring the Champions Club to improve the experience of those visiting the hospitality room.

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The Charles Koch Arena project is one of the priorities of the WSU Foundation's Shock the World campaign, a \$250 million fundraising effort to advance Wichita State University. The last major update of the facility occurred in 2003-04, funded through the \$25 million Roundhouse Renaissance campaign.

"Through their generous contributions, fans and friends like Equity Bank are making it possible for Wichita State to provide student-athletes an environment where they can reach their full potential," said WSU Athletic Director Darron Boatright. "The Charles Koch Arena project also will result in a more efficient, professional setting for the coaches and staff working hard to advance Shocker athletics."

The WSU Foundation and WSU Athletics, working with the volunteer Athletic Facilities Leadership Council, will continue their efforts to raise the remaining \$3.2 million to fund the arena project, along with raising \$2 million to complete a five-phase development plan for Eck Stadium.

"Charles Koch Arena is a wonderful symbol of our Shocker spirit," said Elizabeth King, WSU Foundation president and CEO. "It's our goal to make it a facility that reflects the legacy of our athletic programs."

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Media note: Renderings of the Charles Koch Arena project, including the walkway, may be found at www.wichita.edu/foundationphotos.

Captions:

- 1) A walkway connecting Charles Koch Arena with a new student center for WSU athletes will be named the Equity Bank Walkway of Champions in recognition of the bank's generous gift pledge to Wichita State. The pledge supports a \$12 million project to renovate the arena and build the Wichita State Athletics Student Center.
- 2) A rendering of the new Wichita State Athletics Student Center.

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**WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY
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