

CONTACT: Cindy Raines
PHONE: 865-974-4359
FAX: 865-974-1766
E-MAIL: craines1@utk.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

First Tennessee Pledges \$500,000 to Establish UT Full-Time MBA Symposium

KNOXVILLE, TN — First Tennessee has pledged \$500,000 to be paid through 2015 to support a University of Tennessee College of Business Administration community initiative. The gift, made through the First Tennessee Foundation, will fund an annual full-time MBA symposium.

"The symposium will give MBA students the opportunity to move their learning from the classroom to the real world and give them an understanding of how business leaders think and consider issues," said Glen Schuler, full-time MBA program director. "This gift indicates First Tennessee's commitment to future business leaders and to developing the curriculum of the university and the region."

"The full-time MBA program is ranked among the best in the country, and a symposium of the caliber First Tennessee has proposed will greatly increase the practical learning experience of our students," said Loren Crabtree, chancellor of the flagship Knoxville campus.

Each fall, a high-profile speaker will be invited to discuss a business topic of interest to students and host a dinner reception open to the public.

"We hope to bring speakers who can address different aspects of business, such as policies that impact our society," said Glen Schuler, director of the full-time MBA program. "We want these speakers to give our students a sense of how business leaders are considering issues."

Program representatives from the UT College of Business Administration and First Tennessee will decide the topic of each year's symposium. Business executives,

politicians, business theorists, authors and representatives of government agencies will all be considered as possible speakers, Schuler said.

The gift is half of a \$1 million total gift given to UT. The additional \$500,000 will fund youth financial management classes taught by UT Extension officers throughout Tennessee.

"This \$1 million total gift is a win-win-win -- it supports our state's foremost institution of higher learning, benefits students across Tennessee through financial education and brings high visibility to the College of Business Administration here at UT's flagship Knoxville campus," said Pam Fansler, First Tennessee – Knoxville president.

UT's full-time MBA program has been ranked among the best in the country: 21st among all public universities by the *Financial Times*; 40th among all public universities by *U.S. News and World Report*; and 12th in the U.S. among regional universities by the *Wall Street Journal*.

For more information on UT's full-time MBA program visit <http://mba.utk.edu>

#

About The University of Tennessee College of Business Administration

The mission of the University of Tennessee College of Business Administration in Knoxville, Tennessee, is to provide innovative leadership in management research education and practice. The College consistently breaks new ground with both its scholarship and award-winning, integrated curriculum that is taught within its undergraduate, graduate and nationally recognized executive education programs. The College is fully accredited by *AACSB International - The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business*. For more information about the University of Tennessee College of Business Administration, visit <http://bus.utk.edu>