

Johnson donates money to establish faculty, staff excellence program at FCBE

- By James Dowd
- Posted April 4, 2013 at 5:48 p.m



George Johnson

A major donation from a graduate will help the University of Memphis upgrade its business school.

George Johnson, president of BJB Administrative Services and a 1970 graduate of then-Memphis State University, on Thursday pledged \$875,000 to the Fogelman College of Business and Economics.

The donation will be paid out in five equal annual installments of \$175,000 to reward faculty and staff for outstanding performance and encourage the pursuit of excellence.

“I want to do what I can to help build up the business school and challenge other business leaders to do the same,” Johnson said during a ceremony Thursday announcing the gift. “The Fogelman College of Business and Economics is a gem in our community and this is my way to help promote it.”

Johnson, a longtime supporter of his alma mater, in 2010 received the Outstanding Alumnus award from the business school for his professional achievements and his dedication to the college. His financial gift will be used to reward top-level faculty and offer incentives for staffers to excel in their jobs.

The donation will be used to fund four distinct programs over the next five years. Recipients will be determined by a committee of FCBE alumni, board members, faculty, staff members.

Five “Distinguished Professorship” awards worth \$10,000 each will be given to overall outstanding faculty members.

Five “Research/Teaching/Service” awards worth \$10,000 each will be given to professors who make exemplary contributions in one of those areas. There will be three research honorees, one teaching honoree and one service honoree each year.

Ten publication awards worth \$5,000 each will be distributed to faculty members who publish articles in top tier academic and business journals.

Two staff enrichment awards worth \$5,000 each will be given to non-faculty employees who exceed performance duties.

An additional \$15,000 will be used each year for professional development and appreciation programs for faculty and staff.

“This is a huge help and will serve as a great motivator for our professors and workers,” said Rajiv Grover, Fogelman College dean. “It shows our people that supporters outside our academic community believe in the job we’re doing here and that sends a positive message.”

For more information on the Fogelman College of Business and Economics, visit online at memphis.edu/fcbe.