

Yadkin Bank gives \$100,000 to Appalachian's Walker College of Business

Written by ASU News Bureau
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A \$100,000 gift from Yadkin Bank to Appalachian State University's Walker College of Business will support the college's Honors Convocation, an annual event and reception attended by the college's highest academically achieving students, their families and members of the business faculty.

Each year, the overall top student for the recent academic year is announced during the program. This year's Honors Convocation will be held Friday, April 25.

Yadkin Bank's gift also provides discretionary funds available to the dean of the college, and will be used to enhance student engagement and enrich educational experiences for Walker College of Business students.

"Yadkin Bank is very pleased to be supporting the Walker College of Business with this gift. We truly believe that investing in education today leads to the success of tomorrow. We are excited to see the accomplishments of these students in the High Country and beyond," said Joe Towell, president and chief executive officer of Yadkin Bank.

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A graduate-level classroom in the business building will be named for Yadkin Bank in recognition of its gift.

The bank's gift will be added to the Campaign for Appalachian, the university's \$200 million capital campaign, and specifically will contribute to the renaming of Thelma C. Raley Hall to Kenneth E. Peacock Hall – a decision approved by the university's Board of Trustees in October 2013.

Along with the building's name change, plans to modernize the facility will begin once the \$200 million Campaign for Appalachian is successfully completed in June 2014.

"Yadkin Bank has made a very positive impact in our region," said Walker College of Business Dean Randy Edwards. "They have partnered with Appalachian through intern programs and other collaborations over the years. We look forward to a continued relationship with the bank, particularly with Joe Towell's service on the Business Advisory Council."

Towell earned bachelor's and master's degrees in business at Appalachian before embarking on a 36-year banking career. He will become a member of the Walker College Business Advisory Council in May.

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Yadkin Bank, with \$1.8 billion in assets, currently operates 33 branches in North and South Carolina, including two in Boone and one in Linville. Yadkin is a community bank, forming deep relationships and partnering with local organizations for the betterment of the markets it serves. The bank recently announced plans for a merger-of-equals with VantageSouth Bank, headquartered in Raleigh. Once legal, regulatory and shareholder approvals are obtained and the merger is closed, it will create the largest community bank in North Carolina, with approximately \$4 billion in assets and the ability to bring a more robust set of products and services to its customers while maintaining strong community banking values.