

USA Administrator, Wife Pledge \$1 Million Gift Toward Engineering Scholarship



Dr. Keith Harrison

University of South Alabama Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Graduate School Dr. Keith Harrison and his wife, Leora, have made a \$1 million estate gift to the University toward an endowed scholarship for engineering majors.

Harrison, who has served the University since 1986, has taught chemical engineering students on the undergraduate and graduate levels. He has been in his current administrative position since 2005.

The estate gift adds to the existing endowment of the B. Keith Harrison Endowed Scholarship in Chemical Engineering. The scholarships are geared toward helping deserving undergraduate chemical engineering students based on where the need is greatest. While the scholarship begins this semester with an award to one student, the Harrisons' new gift will allow additional gifts to be awarded to students in the future.

"In view of my many enjoyable years at USA and the beneficial impact that this university has on community, we wanted to contribute to this effort," Harrison said. "We felt that funding scholarships for students would have an impact in helping many students become first-generation college graduates. We chose to favor chemical engineering because of my own background and observation that college graduates in this major are virtually assured some success in life. We felt that scholarships have an impact of helping students and benefiting the University simultaneously."

Leora Harrison said, "I support Keith's desire to help these students and USA as I also feel gratitude toward USA for the education I have received there."

USA Development Director for Leadership Gifts and Planning Ben Samel said, "Keith and Leora's legacy gift demonstrates their dedication to the University and to the students we serve. Their foresight in establishing a gift through their trust fund will help the University attract and retain the very best and brightest students to our chemical engineering department by providing scholarships in perpetuity. Their gift will help the University become one of the leaders in the country in the field of chemical engineering."