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JUST ADD INNOVATORS



'This is only the beginning of great things to come.'

BY MARY GOODWIN



Gary '90, Kristi '89 and their son, Elliott R. '22 Davies, during the ribbon cutting for the Davies Idea Exchange at the Furman University Innovation and Entrepreneurship on Feb. 21.

Trevor Stuart '20 presents ideas during the Furman Innovation and Entrepreneurship 90-Second Pitch Competition in November.

With the aim of helping creative thinkers become entrepreneurs, Furman is providing a new space to help students turn the conceptual into the concrete.

The Davies Idea Exchange is named after Gary '90 and Kristi Baucom Davies '89, who invested \$300,000 in the space to advance entrepreneurial education and its potential for community impact. Gary is a founding member of the Furman Innovation and Entrepreneurship Leadership Council, and he and Kristin are supporters of Furman's Department of Business and Accounting.

"We as a family are honored to be a part of this exciting new opportunity that Furman has boldly introduced," said Gary Davies. "We believe as the whole Furman community begins to learn more about the innovation and entrepreneurship program and the tremendous advantages it affords to each student, everyone will want to be involved."

The space in Hipp Hall serves as a hub for collaborative thought, exploration and entrepreneurial education. Members of the Furman

Innovation and Entrepreneurship Leadership Council, the Furman Board of Trustees, as well as students, faculty and staff attended a ribbon cutting on Feb. 21.

"The Davies Idea Exchange is critical to our mission of helping emerging entrepreneurs move from idea to concept," said Anthony Herrera, executive director of Furman Innovation and Entrepreneurship. "This is a designated space for students to transform innovative ideas and ventures

into meaningful contributions and sustainable business."

Lined with white boards and open seating, the office aims to promote a campus culture of innovation that contributes to entrepreneurship. Through mentoring, immersive programming, competitions and workshops, students of all disciplines will have opportunities for entrepreneurship and creativity.

"This is only the beginning of great things to come," said Gary Davies. ♦