On June 3, 2015, a campaign began to increase the CMRC endowment by $540,000 by December of 2019 or earlier. CMRC was established around 15 years ago, and at present 29 entities have contributed to the endowment; a list of contributors can be found on the CMRC website. No endowment campaign or contributions have occurred for over a decade, and to remain competitive MSU administration has approved a capital campaign. Gifts to the CMRC endowment prior to the end of 2018 count toward Infinite Impact-The Mississippi State University Campaign, which was publicly launched in October of 2013 and has a current goal of $600 million. Photo (1) shows the CMRC Director speaking at the October 2013 campaign launch event to alumni and supporters. Infinite Impact is a key initiative of Dr. Mark Keenum, Dr. Jason Keith, and MSU as a whole. Endowed funds support salary, travel, and other needs within CMRC and are of benefit to the CMRC Director and holder of the endowed chair, as well as to students studying construction materials. Endowment earnings are all that is spent, so contributions to the endowment help ensure the continued success of CMRC in perpetuity. An increased endowment brings stability and can also help to attract additional research and student support funds. Photos (2) to (4) are example student support gifts, with more information available on the CMRC website. We are encouraging each of the 29 entities that have provided support, as well as additional entities interested in construction materials, to consider contributing to the endowment. Thank you for your support!

Endorsements of CMRC’s Education, Research, and Service Activities:

“I’ve worked with CMRC on several construction materials research projects over the past few years and have closely witnessed, first hand, their interaction with grad students and industry professionals. Their understanding of business economics - and how it relates to the engineering of construction materials - is exceptional; along with their ability to strongly convey that to students. CMRC’s teaching principles of effort, efficiency, education and experience - with accuracy and integrity - will well equip students for workplace leadership in agency and industry fields.” --Michael Bogue, Vice President, APAC Mississippi, Inc.

“CMRC does an excellent job of supplementing classroom instruction with hands-on laboratory work for undergraduate students. Because of this effort many of these students are encouraged to pursue a graduate degree related to construction materials. All of CMRC’s students upon graduation have an excellent appreciation of laboratory testing as it relates to research, mix design, and control of materials during construction.” --Ray Brown, Director Emeritus, National Center for Asphalt Technology.

“I had the pleasure of working with CMRC students on the recent Davis Wade Stadium Expansion and Renovation. Some of these students have since graduated and taken positions at agencies such as MDOT with whom our company does business. These students bring instant value to agencies because of the knowledge gained in material testing, mix design, and performance gained through work experience on projects while at CMRC.” --Mark Stovall, Area Manager, MMC Materials, Inc.

“The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) is a beneficiary of the excellent quality of the materials engineering graduates from MSU-CEE. The hands on experience that undergraduate and graduate students attain through participation in research studies at CMRC gives them a superior understanding of construction materials, which is a huge benefit to the Mississippi construction industry. These graduates enter the workforce with the knowledge necessary to make an immediate impact.” James A. Williams, Assistant Chief Engineer-Operations, MDOT.

Please contact us if you are interested in contributing to the CMRC endowment and making your impact felt!

Isaac L. Howard
CMRC Director
ihoward@cee.msstate.edu

Dennis D. Truax
CEE Department Head
dtruax@cee.msstate.edu

Jason M. Keith
BCoE Dean
keith@bagley.msstate.edu

Bennett Evans
BCoE Development Director
BEvans@bagley.msstate.edu