

## Hunt pledges \$1M to UT biz school

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Woody Hunt, an El Paso businessman and graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, has pledged \$1 million in a challenge grant to the Business Honors Program at the McCombs School of Business in Austin. It's designed to help the program attract more top students from his home region. Hunt earned his BBA in the honors program in 1966. The gift will be officially announced at a University of Texas recruiting event Tuesday in El Paso. Once funded, the challenge grant will support the new Woody L. Hunt Endowed Excellence Fund for the expansion of business honors programs, as well as a presidential scholarship aimed at recruiting top students from the El Paso, Las Cruces and Juárez. But in order to receive the gift, the McCombs School must raise an additional \$2 million over five years. Hunt said that he wants to give scholarships to students from the region because the area is "not as competitive as it should be," despite its strengths. "My hope here is to try to improve the competitiveness of our region. The expectations would be that some of those students will come back and contribute to the community," Hunt said. The Business Honors Program, started in 1960, is modeled after the MBA curriculum, giving its 500 students access to smaller classes taught using the case-based model of instruction. The program graduates about 120 students each year. "I was one of the early participants in BHP and have always connected my success going forward with that educational experience," said Hunt, who is chairman and CEO of Hunt Companies Inc. Founded in 1947, the company is involved in investment, real estate development and construction. "We are so grateful for the generosity of Mr. Hunt and the Hunt Family Foundation," said Robert Prentice, faculty director of the Business Honors Program. "These funds and those that we will be raising from alumni and friends of the program will be crucial to the long-term growth and success of the program."