Fogelman Family Foundation gives $2 million to University of Memphis

By Tom Bailey Jr.

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The Martha and Bobby Fogelman Family Foundation is giving $2 million to the University of Memphis to endow a Chair of Excellence and launch a new program in sustainable real estate, the university announced Wednesday night.

The Fogelman College of Business and Economics will carry out the initiative.

"The chair is just one part. We'll also host a national conference and will be inviting the brightest and best minds in this area," said Fogelman College of Business and Economics Dean Rajiv Grover.

The process of hiring a professor to fill the chair will start soon, he said.

Real estate, including the construction and maintenance of buildings, accounts for 39 percent of energy consumption and 38 percent of carbon dioxide emissions, according to university officials.

The interdisciplinary studies will range from city planning to how buildings are used, Grover said.