

Koch Center for Family Enterprise

Generating Insights to Benefit Your Business

We are the Koch Center for Family Enterprise, a research center at WashU Olin Business School. As our name indicates, our focus is singular—the family enterprise. Yet our output is multifaceted. We bring to light learnings pertinent to closely held businesses and the investment and philanthropic activity of families through productive engagement with enterprise leaders, rigorous scholarship on key issues and facilitating student learning in and out of the classroom.

We understand the business and relational complexity of growing a closely held enterprise at all life stages of business. Zooming out from the core business, we also understand that a family's priorities extend beyond the core operations of the enterprise; for many, this purpose extends into investment and philanthropy. By engaging with family enterprises locally, nationally and globally, and bringing the rigors of academic scholarship to bear on these issues, the center works to identify best practices to keep pace with the evolving business landscape.

8th annual
symposium event in 2024

4 to 6 student cocurricular events
a year, and 1 student club on
Entrepreneurship through Acquisition



Representative Board Members:

Spencer Burke,
Michael Dierberg,
Susan Fitzpatrick,
Chris Hoffmann, Katie Hopkins,
Clay Hunter, Paul Koch,
Dave Peacock and John Thee



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Targeted Classroom Opportunities

Ownership Insights,
Entrepreneurship through
Acquisition, Small Business
Initiative

**200+ annual attendees
at center symposiums from 2017-2023**

Previous enterprise leaders from Kohler, Conti,
Bacardi, Tata, BDT Capital, NASCAR

3 areas of focus

Closely Held Business,
Family Investment,
Family Philanthropy

5 Family Enterprise Scholars
Annually

2 Cohort Executive Programs:
Strategic Ownership and Philanthropy*Forward*

Partner with the Koch Center

Managing a family enterprise requires sophisticated leadership and an eye toward the long term. Whether dealing with sustained growth of the core business, intention in the family's investment or impact through philanthropic activities, being strategic requires understanding how to balance and integrate family over time. Wherever you're focusing your energies, the Koch Center is a valuable asset.



Engage with the center and enterprise leaders.

We delve into topics that impact family businesses through special events, symposiums and seminars, including larger audience symposiums and smaller, more intimate engagements. Our immersive events include our annual Family Enterprise Symposium, now in its ninth year.

We publish a bimonthly newsletter and develop executive education courses, including *Growing Strategic Ownership* and *PhilanthropyForward*. The center is also working with the Brookings Institution on a national policy initiative titled *Main Street's Tidal Waves of Transition*.

Find out more about engaging with the Koch Center. Contact Program Manager Jennifer Wintzer at wintzer@wustl.edu or 314-935-2047.



Develop students in class and through experiential learning.

Family business analysis is woven throughout Olin's curriculum. Beyond the inclusion of closely held business cases throughout the curriculum, family enterprises are also spotlighted through experiential learning outside the classroom.

Courses focused explicitly on family enterprise include *Ownership Insights: The Competitive Advantage of Family and Employee-Owned Firms*, *Entrepreneurship through Acquisition*, and the *Small Business Initiative*, run through Olin's Center for Experiential Learning.

In 2023–24, Koch designed and hosted Olin's first national case competition, focused directly on the balance of purpose and performance of the Taylor family through their investment in the city's MLS expansion team and hope for economic development of the region.

Learn more about Koch's involvement in family enterprise curricula at olin.wustl.edu/kochcenter or contact us at familyenterprise@wustl.edu.



Support the center's scholarship and research.

Family enterprise drives 64% of the US economy, yet there isn't a trusted resource for research-formed insights in this area. The Koch Center fills that role, bringing new knowledge to leaders of family organizations to support enhanced professionalism, nuanced sophistication of long-term perspective, and wisdom in how these leaders balance family and business purposes. In addition to the center directors, distinguished faculty fellows and faculty affiliates contributing to family enterprise scholarship, the center supports students as Family Enterprise Scholars.



Please help us continue to grow by supporting the Koch Center. Contact Director of Advancement Sarah Nangle at nangle@wustl.edu to discuss levels of giving.

Alumni.wustl.edu/kochcenter



“The Koch family's vision for a center focused on such a vital segment of our economy, paired with Professor Boumgarden's strategic commitment to guiding its direction, is emblematic of the value of engaging WashU Olin.”

MIKE MAZZEO,
DEAN AND PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS