

\$200,000 more for SSU wine center

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ROHNERT PARK – The Wine Business Institute at Sonoma State University today announced the latest contribution in support of the future Wine Spectator Learning Center from Robin and Michelle Baggett, owners of Alpha Omega Winery in Napa and Tolosa Winery in San Luis Obispo.

The donation of \$200,000 will be put toward the construction of a new Learning Center conference room, which is slated for completion in 2017. The Alpha Omega and Tolosa Wine Business Institute Conference Room will provide a state-of-the-art collaboration and mentoring space for current and future wine industry professionals to further their education.

More than \$6 million has been committed toward the estimated \$9.1 million cost of the project.

“The Wine Business Institute at Sonoma State University provides an invaluable educational experience to the future leaders of our industry. Alpha Omega and Tolosa wineries are proud to partner with the Wine Spectator to create a very special home for this innovative program,” said Mr. Baggett.

Mr. Baggett is a third generation Californian who began his wine career in 1988 as a grape grower, planting over 800 acres of grapes in San Luis Obispo. In 1997, he founded Tolosa Winery and Courtside Cellars. Robin and Michelle founded Alpha Omega in Napa Valley in 2006.

“This gift is a demonstration of Mr. Baggett’s confidence in Sonoma State University as the global leader in wine business research and education. It reinforces our shared belief that the study of wine business is every bit as important as the study of viticulture and enology in shaping a sustainable future for the wine industry,” Ray Johnson, director of the Wine Business Institute said.