UA WALTON COLLEGE ANNOUNCES ALLIANCE WITH INFORMATION GIANT

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. – The University of Arkansas Sam M. Walton College of Business Administration announced Wednesday an alliance with SAP, the current market leader in enterprise resource planning (ERP). ERP systems are integrated information systems that cut across all areas of an organization and across organizations.

With this alliance, SAP donated its R/3 software to the Walton College for use in standard curriculum. This gift is valued at $2.2 million.

Tyson Foods, Inc. also made a gift to the Walton College to enable the college to fulfill its obligations to the alliance. This gift provides for hardware, faculty training, and personnel to support the alliance.

Dr. Janet Renwick, assistant professor in computer information systems and quantitative analysis, led the project to create the alliance with SAP. “Walton College students will have the opportunity to learn the type of system many corporations are implementing, putting them far beyond other business college graduates,” she said.

Dean Doyle Z. Williams said, “With R/3 as a teaching tool Walton College students will learn how to connect and integrate business process concepts, we strongly believe that it will
have a two-fold result: student demand and demand for students. We are grateful to Tyson Foods, Inc. for making this an option for our students with their commitment to assist us in meeting SAP’s requirements.”

According to a report published by the Walton College Information Technology Research Center (ITRC), the SAP University Alliance Program was established to:

- expose students and faculty to R/3 technology;
- increase the supply of technically qualified persons in the market place;
- provide students with high-demand knowledge and skills in business processes and enterprise software;
- provide students with exercises and case studies enhanced by the use of R/3 for management and executive reporting, data analysis, and business analysis;
- establish long-term, high-level research partnerships with universities;
- leverage field studies, student projects, faculty research, and student and faculty internships;
- provide faculty with research and development opportunities; and
- increase collaboration opportunities between Universities and industry.

According to the ITRC’s report, at R/3’s core are powerful programs for accounting and controlling, production and materials management, quality management and plant maintenance, sales and distribution, human resources management, and project management. Information and early warning systems are also available. There are also modules available that collect and edit external and internal data to support decision-making at all corporate levels.

SAP is the world's largest inter-enterprise software company and the world's third-largest independent software supplier, overall. In the fiscal year ending Dec. 31, 1999, SAP AG reported revenues of $4.58 billion. SAP employs over 21,700 people in more than 50 countries.

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