



WICHITA **INDEPENDENT BUSINESS** ASSOCIATION  
News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Phil Ruffin Sr. to present \$100,000 gift to Jardine Students**

WICHITA, Kan., – The Wichita Independent Business Association, in conjunction with USD 259, is hosting an open house February 26<sup>th</sup> at Jardine Technology Magnet Middle School in honor of the new WIBA Jardine Sponsorship Program. The open house will include guided tours of Jardine and a presentation ceremony. During the ceremony, Phil Ruffin Sr. will present a \$100,000 gift to the Jardine Middle School students. Several council members, commissioners and legislators are expected to be in attendance and WIBA's president Lon Smith will be playing with the Jardine Middle School Bucket Band.

**Where:**

Jardine Technology Magnet Middle School located at 3550 E Ross Pkwy, Wichita, KS 67210

**Schedule of Events:**

8:00 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. – Guided tours of Jardine STEM lab and classrooms

9:30 a.m. to 10:05 a.m. – General assembly and presentation ceremony

The WIBA Jardine Sponsorship Program plans to reach students through mentorships, mini internships, and industry expert presentations. Each WIBA business member participant will schedule at least one monthly mentoring session and a mini internship at their place of business for a half day. WIBA business members will put together Industry Expert presentations on an as needed basis to correlate with the curriculum. The goal of this program is to support Jardine students who have a desire to explore various career paths available through WIBA business members.

WIBA has already started the WIBA Fund to support Jardine's STEM lab, providing new and replacement equipment utilized by students to gain a better understanding of STEM in relation to career goals. This sponsorship program is in response to our WIBA member's overwhelming interest in K-12 education as an area of concern. The program is scheduled to kick off this coming school year. This WIBA initiative is a first step towards making a significant difference in the Wichita community.

The Wichita Independent Business Association is the advocate for advancing independent business in the greater Wichita area. WIBA provides resources, influence and economic development for independent businesses so they are able to Connect to Success.

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