

Enid couple give \$7 million to boost OU diabetes center

By Susan Simpson
Staff Writer

Harold and Sue Ann Hamm of Enid gave \$7 million Monday for a center the University of Oklahoma hopes will become one of the nation's top research and treatment centers for diabetes.

The Legislature in 2006 appropriated \$10.5 million for a diabetes center in Oklahoma City and another \$1.5 million for another clinic at OU-Tulsa. Other donations, including those from the Chickasaw, Choctaw and Cherokee Nations, have brought funding to more than \$30 million.

"This is a great day for something I care a great deal about," said Hamm, who is chairman of Continental Resources, a privately held oil and gas company. "I know it's going to be tremendously successful."

The Hamms gave \$3.6 million for three endowed faculty positions, \$2 million for the new building and \$1.4 million for bridge funding to support current re-

search and treatment.

The diabetes center will be named for Harold Hamm.

Statewide programs

More than 200,000 Oklahomans have diabetes, including OU President David Boren. Another 600,000 have pre-diabetic conditions.

The Oklahoma Diabetes Center will develop statewide programs in diabetes care and research for adults and children. Construction could begin as early as 2008. OU already has a strong nucleus of diabetes researchers and physicians, and officials hope to continue recruiting top clinicians and scientists.

"What they do is truly amazing," said patient Ryan Fightmaster, 17, who was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes at age 9.

"Hopefully with this donation, it will provide that hope for all of the other children growing up," he said.