A Solid Shot at Success

March 8, 2012, 10:30 p.m. ET

By MELANIE GRAYCE WEST

Jules B. Kroll wants to give the students of John Jay College of Criminal Justice a solid shot at career success.

The 70-year-old chairman and co-founder of New York-based K2 Global Consulting LLC and chairman and chief executive of Kroll Bond Ratings, Inc., is giving $2 million in support of the college. The atrium of John Jay's new building on 59th Street, which opened last fall, will be named for Mr. Kroll and his wife, Lynn. The donation is scheduled to be announced Friday.

Mr. Kroll, an attorney, is widely credited with creating the modern-day corporate investigations and security industry, and through his companies he has famously tracked down the assets of deposed foreign leaders and investigated crime families and Wall Street alike. He says that for many years he recruited John Jay graduates to join Kroll Inc., his former company.

Though he isn't an alumnus of John Jay, a school of the City University of New York, Mr. Kroll been involved with the college for six years and presently serves as chairman of the John Jay Foundation board of directors. He says he initially became involved because of the leadership of John Jay's president, Jeremy Travis.

One of Mr. Kroll's primary motivations for giving to the school was an interest in supporting the minority population of John Jay.

"I didn't feel that I had ever done enough for the minority community in my other work," he says. John Jay serves some 15,000 students, of which 40% are Latino and 25% African-American.

The school says that most students are the first in their families to attend college. "It makes you feel good to help with that," says Mr. Kroll.

Additionally, the mission of John Jay was a reason to support the school, as many graduates go into law enforcement and stay in the New York area. Mr. Kroll, who resides in Rye, N.Y., was born in Brooklyn and raised in Queens.

Mr. Kroll says that most of his family's philanthropy has gone toward supporting higher education and he has particularly focused his giving to his two alma maters, Cornell University and Georgetown University. Mr. Kroll says that his family rarely makes named
gifts, but decided to give publicly to John Jay as a way to "lead by example" and motivate others.

"The inspiration for this is seeing the contribution that our graduates and faculty make," said Mr. Kroll of the gift. "They really are on the front lines of educating and becoming practitioners in the area of justice. Not just criminal justice, but justice in general. I think it's a hugely important contribution that they make toward society."

The donation from the Krolls is a lead gift in a $50 million capital campaign that coincides with John Jay's 50th anniversary in 2014. So far, $30.8 million has been raised.

A version of this article appeared Mar. 9, 2012, on page A21 in some U.S. editions of The Wall Street Journal, with the headline: A Solid Shot at Success.