

UW Real Estate Department named in honor of Jon and Judy Runstad

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The College of Built Environments Department of Real Estate, formerly the Runstad Center for Real Estate Studies, has been named in honor of Jon and Judy Runstad.

The Runstads established the real estate program at the [University of Washington](#) in 1999 by creating an endowed fund that led to the establishment of the Runstad Center for Real Estate Studies, which is now the Runstad Department of Real Estate. The UW Board of Regents approved the naming of the department last month.

The real estate program has grown significantly since its inception and was elevated to department status in September, serving as the focal point for UW real estate research and teaching. The university approved the naming of the Runstad Department of Real Estate to recognize the Runstads' vision of a comprehensive real estate education program and for nearly two decades of leadership and philanthropy.

[Jon Runstad](#) is co-founder, chairman and chief executive officer of [Wright Runstad & Co.](#), which has developed prominent buildings in the Puget Sound region and elsewhere. Currently it's developing the [58-story Rainier Square](#) mixed-use tower in Seattle and the [36-acre Spring District](#) in Bellevue.

[Judy Runstad](#) is former co-managing partner at Foster Pepper, where she practiced land-use and environmental law, representing developers of large-scale public and private projects. She has served on gubernatorial commissions dealing with business competitiveness, higher education, transportation and growth.

"They have been leaders not only in the real estate and law communities but in the broader Seattle civic community," [John Schaufelberger](#), dean of the College of Built Environments, said in a news



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release. He said they've helped build and sustain the program, which since its launch has produced eight cohorts of students who have received master's degrees and gone on to assume important positions within the real estate industry.

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