Good things come in large boxes!

Executives from Wal-Mart and NCR joined university officials at a ribbon-cutting cere-mony on September 15 to mark the installation of a $5 million gift in kind to Kansas State University.

Left to right are Susan Chambers, vice president for information systems for Wal-Mart; Jon Wefald, president of Kansas State University; Mike Woods, account execu-tive for NCR; Jim Coffman, university provost; Virgil Wallentine, head of the Department of Computing and Information Sciences in the College of Engineering and Terry King, dean of the College of Engineering.

The NCR teradata system installed in K–State's Nichols Hall is larger than many used by major corporations. It is equipped with 1.7 terabytes of disk storage (one ter-abyte is equivalent to 250 million pages of text) and NCR teradata software, the core component used in Wal-Mart's data warehouse of 101 terabytes, believed to be the largest commercial database in the world.

Wallentine said that by learning to program and manage a large parallel comput-ing system, K-State students will see firsthand the opportunities and critical challeng-es associated with very large databases. "As a result, K-State graduates will be prepared to enter the rapidly expanding job market with extensive, practical experi-ence," he said.

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