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A Guide to the William B. Cockroft Forum for Free Enterprise

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Background

The William B. Cockroft Forum for Free Enterprise was founded in 1977 with initial funding from Dr. William D. Cockroft, a successful entrepreneur who did not enter the business world until after he retired and closed his successful dental practice. Dr. Cockroft then went on to create a \$500 million corporation that included furniture manufacturing and 40 hotels nationwide. The idea of the Foundation dedicated to free enterprise came from Dr. Wayne Robbins. As an aide to a U.S. Senator, Dr. Robbins saw the threat to free enterprise as “Educational in nature.” In the late 1970s, the free enterprise system in America was facing severe criticism that, for the most part, originated on college campuses.

The Foundation and the Cockroft Forums at selected colleges and universities around the country then “would encourage and help establish a meaningful dialogue between the business world and academic world.” Students and faculty would get the practical input which business leaders could offer, and equally as important, business leaders needed to hear the questions students were asking.

Box #	Folder Titles	Contents
1	The William B. Cockroft Forum for Free Enterprise pamphlets	
1	Correspondence	1983-1985
1	Correspondence	1986
1	Correspondence	