

# FCR 4

Office of the President  
February 20, 2026

Members, Board of Trustees:

ACCEPTANCE OF CHARITABLE GIFT FROM LOIS MATEUS TO BENEFIT  
THE MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees accept a charitable gift totaling \$2,000,000 from Lois Mateus to establish and support a new endowed chair fund, the “Dr. Craig H. Wood Endowed Chair in Cooperative Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources.” This gift is dedicated in honor of Dr. Craig H. Wood, whose exemplary leadership, dedication and contributions have made significant impact for the University’s Cooperative Extension Service. Dr. Wood has served as a catalyst for creativity, innovation and meaningful impact for all of Kentucky. Dr. Wood has been a pioneer for statewide outreach and engagement through creative strategies, digital technologies and innovative delivery models to enhance inclusive Extension programming across Kentucky.

Background: Lois Mateus graduated from the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture in 1968 with a bachelor of science degree in Home Economics. She studied textiles in Ireland and Denmark, as well as art history at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. She is a member of the College of Communication and Information National Advisory Board, College of Communications and Information Studies Dean’s list, Arts External Board – Visual, University of Kentucky Alumni Association and endowment contact for the Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues Endowed Fund for Excellence. Ms. Mateus received the Lifetime Achievement Award by the UK School of Journalism and Telecommunications in 2004.

Ms. Mateus is a retired Senior Vice President of the Brown-Forman Corporation. For over 26 years she oversaw the company’s public relations, corporate communications, community relations and contributions activity. With CEO Owsley Brown, she launched Brown-Forman’s Sustainability Initiative and was a major shareholder for the company’s creation of Woodford Reserve bourbon. Representing Brown-Forman, she became the first woman to serve on the board of the Kentucky Distillers Association (KDA). In 2013, KDA created the annual Lois Mateus Mentoring Award in her honor. Ms. Mateus owns Tallgrass Farm where she raises grass-fed Black Angus cattle and is the President and Director of Tallgrass Farm Foundation, Inc., which aims to preserve the agricultural heritage of Kentucky farmland and rural communities by demonstrating sustainable methods.

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Action taken:     Approved     Disapproved     Other \_\_\_\_\_