

Office of the President
June 16, 2023

Members, Board of Trustees:

RENAMING OF THE COLLEGE OF
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the official renaming of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment as the “Edith Martin and Harry W. Gatton, Sr. College of Agriculture, Food and Environment.”

Background: Mr. Gatton grew up on a farm in Muhlenberg County and his family instilled in him early the importance of education, hard work and giving back. With those values in mind, and as an incredibly successful businessman and entrepreneur, Mr. Gatton believed that the University of Kentucky – which meant so much to him – represented one of the most important instruments for advancing the commonwealth. For much of his life, he invested in UK – and its students – as a way of building a bridge for others to follow toward a brighter future.

The Bill Gatton Foundation is dedicated to perpetuating the ideals and generous legacy of Mr. Gatton and has bestowed a \$100 million gift to the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment (CAFE). This gift is not only the largest to the university in its nearly 160-year history but is also believed to be the largest to a college of agriculture in the United States. To honor Mr. Gatton’s parents, Edith Martin and Harry W. Gatton Sr., the college will be renamed the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment.

This transformational gift will have a profound impact on CAFE and a cornerstone in the university’s mission allowing more students the opportunity to discover their passions, reveal their promise and prepare themselves to lead lives of meaning and purpose.

The College of Agriculture, Food and Environment faculty and the University Senate endorse this renaming designation. The President supports this recommendation.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____