

Proposal for Posthumous Degree
[REDACTED] – Civil Engineering

This is to request approval for a posthumous degree for [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was scheduled to graduate with her BS degree in civil engineering in May 2018 but passed away due to injuries in an automobile accident on July 15, 2017. She had 30 hours left to complete her degree. [REDACTED] was a first-generation college student. After graduating from Bates Creek High School, she moved to Florida where she attended Florida State College-Jacksonville. She returned to Lexington in 2012 to attend BCTC and transferred to UK in 2015 to begin working on her civil engineering degree. As a non-traditional student, [REDACTED] often felt she didn't fit in with her younger classmates, but her humor and wit easily won them over. She worked very, very hard during the semester and understood the dedication required to obtain an engineering degree. She never complained when she had an 8 am class and was always on time for it, despite having to commute to campus. Her positive attitude helped her tremendously when she became ill in the fall 2016 and underwent surgery. She could have withdrawn from her classes and taken the rest of the semester to heal but she refused and soldiered on. [REDACTED] remained steadfast in her determination towards achieving her degree and fighting her illness, even undergoing alternative therapies to help her heal. Every conversation with [REDACTED] ended in laughter as she kept a smile on her face and everyone in the Department of Civil Engineering enjoyed seeing her come into the office. Her advisor stated, "I often told her to take a break and focus on herself, but she refused and then cracked a joke that inevitably made me laugh. She loved animals too, so our conversations usually involved showing each other pictures of them and talking about how we were trying to save the world, one animal at a time".

In summary, [REDACTED] was a bright light amid a challenging environment and we have no doubt she and her family would be tremendously proud and happy to receive this posthumous degree.