ESTABLISH THE DIECKAMP CENTER FOR RELIABLE, SECURE, AND TRUSTWORTHY SYSTEMS, THE GRAINGER COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING, URBANA

Action: Establish the Dieckamp Center for Reliable, Secure, and Trustworthy Systems, The Grainger College of Engineering

Funding: No New Funding Required

The Chancellor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and Vice President, University of Illinois recommends for approval a proposal from the Dean of The Grainger College of Engineering, the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost, and the Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement to establish the Dieckamp Center for Reliable, Secure, and Trustworthy Systems in The Grainger College of Engineering.

In 2011, Mr. Dieckamp established the Herman M. Dieckamp Endowment Fund, supporting the advancement of teaching and research in highly reliable, fail-safe, and resilient systems, which are necessary to protect critical infrastructure. Mr. Dieckamp has since made additional gifts totaling over $5.0 million to support the named center, based on an amended endowment fund agreement. All funds have been received and the endowment fund is established with the University of Illinois Foundation.
Due to Mr. Dieckamp’s generosity, net income from the endowment fund has since been utilized to provide support for an endowed faculty chair position, and will also support scholarships and fellowships, student internships with industry partners, professional development and educational programming, laboratory and equipment upgrades, and other activities that enhance the university’s expertise and reputation in system reliability, security, and trust.

Mr. Herman Dieckamp graduated from the University of Illinois with a degree in engineering physics. He chose Illinois in part because of its engineering program and, with a strong background in the fundamentals of math and physics, positioned himself for a thriving career in energy, a field then undergoing transformative changes with the emergence of nuclear technology.

After nearly 40 years in the nuclear industry, Dieckamp retired as president and chief operating officer of General Public Utilities.

Mr. Dieckamp believes that there is still an important place in the energy industry for safe nuclear technology, and hopes his investment in fail-safe systems teaching and research at Illinois will create “extreme reliability” in the nation’s critical infrastructure.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois Statutes, The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The President concurs with this recommendation.