

Board Meeting
March 7, 2013

ESTABLISH THE TIAA-CREF CENTER FOR FARMLAND RESEARCH,
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL AND CONSUMER ECONOMICS, COLLEGE
OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES,
URBANA

Action: Establish the TIAA-CREF Center for Farmland Research, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences

Funding: No New Funding Required

The Chancellor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and Vice President, University of Illinois with the advice of the Urbana-Champaign Senate recommends approval of a proposal from the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences to establish the TIAA-CREF Center for Farmland Research.

The Center will undertake a set of research and outreach activities related to agricultural asset valuation and financial performance with emphases on farmland markets, factors influencing farmland values, taxation and use policy, farmland rental arrangements, commodity price relationships to income and valuation, impacts of non-farm activities, and other items related to an understanding of farmland and related asset values.

The Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics (ACE) has long been an international leader in farm-level research related to farmland valuation, leasing,

and investment performance. This Center is consistent with the land-grant mission and is vital in supporting activities related to the development of understanding of issues related to farmland valuation and policies impacting farmland, the single largest asset on the agricultural balance sheet. The formation of the Center will foster a coordination of research in the area and provide a much larger platform from which to continue and expand this leadership.

TIAA-CREF has agreed in principle to provide \$5.0 million in support over a three-year period. Earnings on the TIAA-CREF support will be the major source of funding. Additionally, support for research projects will be actively sought from private and competitive funding sources. The Center will be self-supporting after the three-year accumulation phase.

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 Vice President for Academic Affairs concurs with this recommendation. The University Senates Conference has indicated that no further Senate jurisdiction is involved.

The President of the University recommends approval. This action is subject to further review and approval by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.