

Approved by the Board of Trustees
May 16, 2019

Board Meeting
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NAME THE GRAINGER COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING, URBANA

Action: Name 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 College of Engineering, the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost, and the Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement to name the College of Engineering as The Grainger College of Engineering.

Established in 1868, the College of Engineering is considered one of the original academic units, and has enjoyed a tremendous history in creating the technological imprint that its graduates and faculty have left on our society. The land of Bardeen and Holonyak, of ILLIAC and Mosaic, and of PayPal and YouTube, Illinois Engineering graduates, staff, and faculty have changed the world for the better in the past century. We propose naming the College in honor of William W. Grainger, a 1919 graduate of the College of Engineering, whose generous personal and family foundation investments help the college deliver on its mission as an engine of engineering excellence and growth for the University of Illinois, the State of Illinois, and the technological competitiveness of the nation, in very profound and purposeful ways.

William W. Grainger graduated from the university's electrical engineering program in 1919 and founded W.W. Grainger, Inc., North America's leading broad line supplier of maintenance, repair and operating products, in 1927. Grainger is an Illinois-based Fortune 500 company with more than 25,000 employees worldwide. He served as its President until he retired from active management in 1968 and served as a Director from 1927 until his death in October 1982 at the age of 87. He also established The Grainger Foundation, an independent, private foundation, located in Lake Forest, Illinois, in 1949. Since its founding, the Foundation has provided substantive support to a broad range of organizations including museums and educational, medical and human services institutions. Today, the Foundation is guided by the leadership of David W. Grainger, Chairman and Director, since 1979.

Born in Chicago, Mr. Grainger graduated from Crane Junior College in Electrical Engineering in 1916 and entered the University of Illinois as a junior. In 1917, his academic career was interrupted by military service as a Chief Petty Officer in the Navy during World War I. Mr. Grainger reentered the University of Illinois and graduated in June 1919 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering. During World War II, Mr. Grainger served with the War Production Board as a Dollar-A-Year executive.

Mr. William W. Grainger and The Grainger Foundation began providing support to the College of Engineering's Department of Electrical and Computer

Engineering in 1979. Including their latest support, The Grainger Foundation has provided significant support toward numerous projects including:

- The Grainger Center for Electric Machinery and Electromechanics
- The Grainger Chair in Electrical Engineering
- The Grainger Power Engineering Awards
- The Grainger Engineering Library Information Center
- The redesign of the Bardeen Quad
- The remodel of Engineering Hall
- The new Electrical and Computer Engineering Building
- The Grainger Engineering Breakthroughs Initiative, which included \$100 million in support of research, undergraduate scholarships, the renovation of Everitt Lab for the bioengineering department, and faculty chairs and professorships
- The Engineering Visionary Scholarship Initiative

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 Executive Vice President and Vice President for Academic Affairs concurs with this recommendation.

The President recommends approval. This action will be reported to the Illinois Board of Higher Education.