Approved by the Board of Trustees

September 23, 2021

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Board Meeting

September 23, 2021

ROLL CALL

APPROVE PROJECT BUDGET FOR DORIS KELLEY CHRISTOPHER ILLINOIS EXTENSION CENTER, URBANA

**Action:** Approve Project Budget for Doris Kelley Christopher Illinois Extension

Center

**Funding:** Gift Funds and Institutional Funds Operating Budget

The University of Illinois Extension aims to consolidate programs currently housed in several buildings on campus and Champaign into a new centralized location proposed to be named the Doris Kelley Christopher Illinois Extension Center. The new Extension Center will be located on the current grounds of the University of Illinois Arboretum at the intersection of Hazelwood Drive and Lincoln Avenue. The new Extension Center will be designed to deliver practical education programs in five broad areas: energy and environmental stewardship; food safety and security; economic development and workforce preparedness; family health, financial security, and wellness; and youth development.

Operating within the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES), the Extension Center will be the home to six main user groups/departments: Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR); Community and Economic Development (CED); Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS); 4-H; Information Technology; and Administration.

The site design will be the outdoor embodiment of the building and will manifest the land grant mission through programming designed to integrate discovery, translation, and transformational activities to improve the quality of people’s lives in Illinois communities and beyond. Outdoor exhibits, classroom and demonstration spaces and gardens will expand the facility’s programmable space and extend teaching, learning, social and well-being opportunities into the building’s landscape, extending into the Arboretum. The $40.0 million proposed new building includes a total of 32,000 gross square feet of new state-of-the-art laboratory instructional areas and associated support spaces.

This project is being made possible through a generous gift from Doris Kelley Christopher. Christopher graduated with a degree in Home Economics in 1967. She is best known as the founder and chairman of Pampered Chef. She is a Director on the University of Illinois Foundation Board and an avid donor to the University. Her past contributions made possible the Doris Kelley Christopher Hall, which has created a welcoming space that brings faculty together across campus, fosters programs focusing on food and family, and serves as the home to The Autism Program (TAP), a resource for families, teachers, and other professionals. Christopher has been recognized with numerous awards, including the 2012 Torchbearer of the Year Award for her leadership and dedication to ethical business practices by the Better Business Bureau of Chicago and Northern Illinois, and “The Order of Lincoln Medallion,” the highest honor for outstanding achievement the State of Illinois bestows.

Accordingly, the Chancellor, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and Vice President, University of Illinois with the concurrence of the appropriate administrative officers, recommends that the Doris Kelley Christopher Illinois Extension Center be approved with a budget of $40.0 million.

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.

Funds for this project are available from gift funds and institutional funds operating budget of the University of Illinois Urbana.

The President of the University concurs.