



Item: CG: A-1f

COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

June 8, 2021

SUBJECT: APPROVE NAMING OF THE STILES-NICHOLSON BRAIN INSTITUTE

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

Recommend that the BoT approve the naming of the Stiles-Nicholson Brain Institute building on the Jupiter Campus of Florida Atlantic University, and authorize the establishment of the associated David J. S. Nicholson Distinguished Professorship in Neuroscience (to be held by the Executive Director of the Stiles-Nicholson Brain Institute), the Lynn and David Nicholson Center for Neurodegenerative Disease Research, and the Stiles-Nicholson STEM Teacher Academy.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Donation:

David J. S. Nicholson is making a gift in the amount of Nine Million Two Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$9,220,000) in support of FAU's Brain Institute located on the Jupiter Campus and the College of Education's AD Henderson University School and FAU High School. Mr. Nicholson, through the Stiles-Nicholson Foundation, has previously provided grant funding in support of the FAU ASCEND program in the amount of Seven Hundred Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$780,000), for a total contribution amount of \$10,000,000. Mr. Nicholson is also providing up to an additional \$250,000 for enhanced campus landscaping, bringing the potential total of his philanthropy to FAU to \$10,250,000. Mr. Nicholson intends for this gift to serve as a catalyst to encourage other donors in the community to join him in giving to these initiatives in the coming years.

The gift is paid over ten years, with more than eighty percent provided in less than five years. The gift provides support for construction of the third floor of the new Brain Institute

building, including signage; salary support for a Distinguished Professorship in Neuroscience (ten-year term); operating support for a Center for Neurodegenerative Disease Research; programmatic support for the ASCEND program and a STEM Teacher Academy; and marketing and promotions for the endeavors being supported by the gift. The supplemental gift may also support supplemental landscaping around the building. To recognize this generous lead gift, the university proposes to name the University element and associated programs listed above.

Donor's Background:

David John Stiles Nicholson is the founder and chairman of The Stiles Nicholson Foundation. He was born in England and raised in Ontario, Canada. In 1962, he earned a B.S. in electrical engineering from Queen's University. After graduating from college, Nicholson began working for IBM Canada, Ltd. as a computer engineer. In July 1967, his career changed directions when he went to work for MacKay Shields Financial Company in New York City. At MacKay Shields, Nicholson rose to a position of managing portfolios for clients, including pension funds for Boeing, Weyerhaeuser, and New York City. After eleven years, he founded his own company, York Management & Research, LLC. The company provides private, independent investment advice to high-net-worth individuals as well as institutions such as the Harvard University Endowment Fund. Currently, he serves as chairman and the company focuses primarily on family investments.

In 1992, Nicholson established The Stiles-Nicholson Foundation, a family foundation named for William John Stiles and William Nicholson, his father and stepfather. The foundation's mission includes supporting four major areas of initiative: Free Enterprise & Entrepreneurship, Financial Literacy, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) Education, and Education Outcomes.

Charlotte Lynn Nicholson and David Nicholson were married in 2003. She is a retired K-12 educator. She serves as a trustee for The Stiles-Nicholson Foundation and as a director for York Management & Research, LLC.

David Nicholson and his wife reside in Jupiter, Florida.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Construction of the Jupiter Campus STEM / Life Sciences Building has already been approved by the Board of Trustees and is underway. The gift will support the addition and build-out of the third floor of the building. Cost of signage and installation is funded through the gift and some landscaping costs may also be funded through the gift.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/DATE

Installation of signage and distribution of promotional materials following BOT approval. A naming announcement and planning for other celebratory activities to follow. The building is scheduled to open in 2022.

Presented by: Kerry Kruckel

Phone: 561-297-3015