



The State University
of New York

Office of the Chancellor

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MEMORANDUM

September 16, 2025

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Dr. John B. King Jr., Chancellor

SUBJECT: Naming of a New School of Environment and Sustainable Development at Cornell University's College of Agriculture & Life Sciences

Action Requested

The proposed resolution names the Ashley School of Environment and Sustainable Development at Cornell University's College of Agriculture & Life Sciences.

Resolution

I recommend that the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution:

Resolved that, in recognition of the philanthropic commitment by Stephen B. Ashley, the naming of the Ashley School of Environment and Sustainable Development at Cornell University's College of Agriculture & Life Sciences is, hereby, approved.

Background

After review and careful consideration, Cornell University's College of Agriculture & Life Sciences will combine the Departments of Natural Resources and the Environment and the Department of Global Development into one new school: the Ashley School of Environment and Sustainable Development. As a result, the College of Agriculture & Life Sciences will consist of three schools – the Ashley School of the Environment and Sustainable Development, the School of Integrative Plant Science, and the Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management – and 16 academic departments.

Mr. Ashley is Chairman, CEO, and Founder of The Ashley Companies, a privately held real estate investment and development firm. He is a CALS alumnus, having graduated as an agricultural economics major. He earned his MBA from the SC Johnson School. Mr. Ashley is a Cornell Trustee Emeritus (Trustee 1998–2014) and Presidential Councilor (since 2014). Mr. Ashley is an active member emeritus of the CALS Advisory Council and active current member of the CALS Campaign Committee. He also served on the CALS Dean search committee that hired Ben Houlton. He serves on the Class of 1962 Class Council and Johnson Art Museum Friends of Photography Acquisitions Committee. In the past, he has served on the University Campaign Cabinet as Co-Chair; Major Gifts Committee; Dyson Undergraduate Advisory Council; Cornell University Council; and as Chair of the campaign for Mann Library 1996-2000. He received the Frank H.T. Rhodes Exemplary Alumni Service Award in 2016 and CALS Outstanding Alumni Award in 1998. Mr. Ashley is a generous university citizen and philanthropic partner who is committed to relationship-building with Cornell leaders.