

COLLEGE OF
**FORESTRY &
CONSERVATION**
UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

Date: Sept. 28, 2016

To: Montana University System Board of Regents

Re: Academic unit naming proposal

Through a formal vote of the faculty, the College of Forestry and Conservation is pleased to express its support for naming of our college the W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation.

Through their transformative donation, Bill Franke and his family will support and enhance the experiences of countless students and faculty at the College of Forestry and Conservation. Beyond impacting individual lives, their generosity will fuel groundbreaking research that will elevate the profile of the University of Montana and benefit Montana and the world.

Their gift will provide undergraduate students the opportunity to engage in local and international field work and internships, will help students implement community-based sustainability projects, will fund graduate fellowships in wildlife biology, will support faculty and graduate student research initiatives in fresh water conservation, will underwrite student internships, and will create two endowed chairs in forest conservation and watershed hydrology.

As we move into a future where water conservation and hydrological processes, sustainable use of natural resources, human coexistence with wildlife, and constantly evolving questions about these issues increasingly become the focus of global attention, the work we do – our research and the education of the next generation of conservation scientists; policy makers; and land managers – matters even more. Financial support to enable our work is vital to solving the challenges of the 21st century. With support provided by this generous gift, the faculty and students at the W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation will continue to build the passion, creativity and scientifically minded problem-solving needed to address the changing environment and society.

The Franke family's \$24 million dollar gift, which also includes a portion for UM's Global Leadership Initiative, is the largest, single private donation UM has ever received. It will touch and enhance every corner of our college. In recognition of the magnitude of this generosity, we hereby recommend to President Royce Engstrom that the College of Forestry and Conservation be renamed as the W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation



Michael Patterson, interim dean