

MURRAY STATE

TO: Dr. Bob Jackson, President
Chair, Committee on Naming of Facilities, Programs and Activities

FROM: Dr. Tina Bernot, Executive Director of Advancement
Kevin Munsey, Director of Development

DATE: March 6, 2025

SUBJECT: Dr. Jesse D. Jones Faculty Lounge Naming Proposal

Dr. Jesse D. Jones graduated from Murray State University in 1964 with a double major in chemistry and mathematics. A native of Marshall County, Jones was a nontraditional student and earned his degrees while he was married with two young children and working evenings at a plant in Calvert City. While his schedule prevented him from enjoying daily activities on campus, Jones considers his classes at Murray State University to be an incredible experience that led him to future success.

After graduating, Jones moved to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and started work for Ethyl Corporation, which in 1994 was divided into Ethyl and Albemarle. Both companies had facilities in Baton Rouge. For over thirty years, Jones performed chemistry, engineering and sales assignments for the corporation. Early in his career, he worked as a plastics engineer and helped develop the technologies to use PVC piping in cold water systems. His contributions to research and development in polymers, plastics and materials were the basis for 19 patents to the Ethyl and Albemarle Corporation. As his career continued, his responsibilities shifted to technical support for manufacturing and sales. Jones supported projects such as the manufacturing of pharmaceuticals like Ibuprofen and of bromine-based chemicals that are used in a broad range of applications. Throughout his tenure, Jones had the opportunity to travel the world with the Ethyl and Albemarle Corporation to promote its manufacturing facilities and customer operations.

Since his retirement from Albemarle Corporation in 1999, Jones has dedicated his time and resources to Murray State University by generously supporting student scholarships, endowing professorships and contributing to faculty honors, and funding state-of-the-art research facilities. Dr. Jones made the lead gift in our previous University capital campaign, Hold Thy Banner High, and has continued to give over three decades toward projects including the Jesse L. Jones Family Clocktower, named for his late father; the creation of a satellite library in Jesse D. Jones Hall; the Hattie Mayme Ross Science Library; support for science equipment and technology through the naming of the Timothy D. Jones Gateway, named for his son; the Racer Writing Center; support for Murray State's annual Math Day; established scholarship and professorship funds in the sciences and was instrumental in the development of Heritage Hall and the Hall of Benefactors. Dr. Jones has also been recognized as a Murray State University Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni and in recognition for his commitment and contributions to the fields of mathematics and chemistry, was awarded the Doctor of Science Honoris Causa degree from Murray State University in May of 2010. Dr. Jones has been previously honored over the past several years by

Murray State University, including receiving the Golden Horseshoe Award. In 2013, the Board of Regents unanimously voted to rename the College of Science, Engineering and Technology in his honor.

Dr. Jones's lifetime giving of over \$4 million has been amazingly impactful for Murray State University, our facilities, students and faculty. Most recently, he has made gifts in support of equipment and technology for the new nursing building, Jackson Hall. It is in appreciation of Dr. Jones's loyal support to the University, that approval of the naming of the Faculty Lounge in the new School of Nursing and Health Professions academic building as the "Dr. Jesse D. Jones Faculty Lounge" is being recommended. The naming will be commemorated with a dedication and naming signage located on level 2 of the Nursing Building.