



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: October 31, 2024

SUBJECT: **Oleta E. Burkeen Nursing Essential Skills and Health Assessment Lab Naming Proposal**

Mrs. Oleta E. Burkeen and her family have a very generous giving history with Murray State University. Beginning in 2004, Charles and Oleta Burkeen established the Phoebe Fund Endowment in Nursing to assist nursing students of great need with final licensing examination, pins, and other expenses directly associated with their final semester and/or graduation. Oleta's daughter and son-in-law, Kelli and Scott Parsons, established the D. Scott and Kelli Burkeen Parsons Scholarship for International Study in 2010, as a way to assist students at Murray State University who desire to study abroad and thus enhance their international experience(s). Both of these endowed scholarships have helped countless students throughout the last 20 years.

Oleta Burkeen, a 1971 MSU graduate with a B.S. degree in Nursing, earned her M.P.H. degree from the University of North Carolina and then served as Chief of Nursing for the Tennessee Valley Authority. She returned to Murray and taught community health nursing from 1977 until her retirement from the Murray State University School of Nursing in 2001.

Kelli Burkeen Parsons was born December 27, 1968 in Murray, Kentucky. She was valedictorian of the 1987 graduating class of Calloway County High School. She received her B.A. degree in Journalism from Murray State University in 1990, graduating Magna Cum Laude, and her M.S. degree in Journalism from Northwestern University Medill Graduate School of Journalism in 1991. She has served as Chief Communication and Marketing Officer for New York Life and Fannie Mae, Executive Vice President and General Manager of Hill and Knowlton, and is currently serving as the Global CEO for the same firm within the Burson group.

David Scott Parsons, was born in Louisville, Kentucky on December 27, 1964, and grew up in Woodford County. Scott graduated from the University of Kentucky where he earned a degree in business. Scott held management positions with Xerox Corporation, Digital Equipment Corporation and Compaq Computer Corporation prior to his service as a Presidential Appointee in the Administration of President George W. Bush. As a Deputy Assistant Secretary in the U.S. Department of Treasury, Scott directed critical infrastructure protection and compliance policy. He is currently Founder and Principal of Parsons Strategy Group, a consultancy in New York and Washington, D.C.

The brand-new, state-of-the-art School of Nursing and Health Professions building on Murray State University's main campus, expected to open its doors in the Spring of 2026, will offer Murray State students expanded instructional spaces including skill and assessment labs, a simulation suite, a virtual reality learning lab, larger classrooms, a student commons, and collaborative spaces. The new SONHP building will help Murray State continue to meet the needs of healthcare professionals in our region and beyond.

In appreciation of both the Burkeen and Parsons families' loyal support to our university, and generosity continuing into the future, we recommend approval of the naming of the "Oleta E. Burkeen Nursing Essential Skills and Health Assessment Lab" to be commemorated with a dedication and naming sign(s) located on the third floor Nursing Essential Skills and Health Assessment Lab in the new School of Nursing and Health Professions building.