


MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

April 16, 2021

MEMORANDUM

To: Committee on Academic Affairs

From: Samuel Stanley Jr., M.D., President 

Subject: Naming Proposal: College of Engineering Student Activities Building

RECOMMENDATION

The Trustee Committee on Academic Affairs recommends that the Board of Trustees approve naming the College of Engineering Student Activities Center the William A. Demmer Engineering Center.

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Michigan State University hereby approves naming the College of Engineering Student Activities Center the William A. Demmer Engineering Center.



Office of the President

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BACKGROUND

The new Engineering Student Activities Building is directly tied to our ongoing student success initiatives and value proposition for current and future students. The funding plan has been approved for the project with a budget of \$4M. The generous naming gift of \$2M from Linda and William “Bill” Demmer supports our efforts in this area and allows the project to move forward at this time.

The building will be located near the corner of Farm Lane and Mount Hope Road. This new facility will provide an on-campus facility for co-curricular activities, especially the student competition teams. These competition teams provide hands-on, team-based experiences for students that hone both their technical and leadership skills, connect them to key employers, and provide them a significant jump start to their engineering careers. In addition, their involvement in such competition brings valuable visibility to the University.

BACKGROUND ON WILLIAM “BILL” DEMMER

Bill Demmer is a graduate of Michigan State University. He received his BS in Mechanical Engineering from the College of Engineering in 1970. In 2019, he received an Honorary Doctorate from the Broad College of Business.

Bill serves as the Chief Executive Officer and President of Demmer Corporation. Demmer Corporation provides engineering and manufacturing

solutions to customers in the defense, aerospace, automotive, energy, and transportation industries. Bill is also the Chief Executive Officer of River Caddis Development, LLC. River Caddis Development has acquired, developed, or redeveloped multi-family and commercial assets in multiple states. He also serves on the board of NIOWAVE, Inc., a Lansing-based distributor of medical and industrial radioisotopes.

Bill formerly served as the President of the Boone and Crockett Club, the largest Wildlife Conservation organization in the world, founded by Theodore Roosevelt in 1923, and he currently serves on the board of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership. Bill was a leader in establishing the Boone and Crockett Chair in Wildlife Conservation at MSU in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, helping to bridge science and conservation policy by developing and promoting leadership to both public and private organizations.

In addition to helping Michigan State University expand its conservation and natural resource investments, Bill helped co-found and co-fund the MSU Flygirls Program, a program that offers fly-fishing classes and experiences to future women fisheries biologists.

With assistance from his family, Bill established the John and Marnie Demmer Shooting Sports, Education and Training Center on the MSU campus, a 24,000-square-foot facility based on many of the principles as the Boone and Crockett Club, such as firearms safety, hunter safety, wildlife management education and shooting skills development. The facility also houses the MSU club shooting sports, including small bore, air rifle and archery.

Bill Demmer was the 2011 recipient of the Claud R. Erickson Distinguished Alumni Award -- the highest alumni award bestowed by the College of Engineering to graduates who have attained the highest level of professional accomplishment, provided distinguished and meritorious service to the College of Engineering and the engineering profession, and engaged in voluntary service at the local, state, national, and/or international level.

The University Naming Committee has endorsed this proposal.

cc: Board of Trustees, T. Woodruff, N. Beauchamp, B. Quinn, N. Barr, M. Zeig, B. Kranz, M. Heil