

**RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION HONORING ROBERT J. MILLS, JR.**

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Robert J. Mills, Jr., in his capacity as president of the board of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, served as a member of the Board of Visitors of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University from 2017 to 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Mills is an alumnus of the Class of 1994, having received his associate degree in Agricultural Technology from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; and

**WHEREAS**, an entrepreneur, Mr. Mills began his path as a first-generation farmer at the age of 13, going on to become Virginia Farmer of the Year as well as the Swisher Sweets/Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year 30 years later in 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Mills is a strong advocate for the agriculture industry, having spoken on campus and traveled across the state and nation to speak to young future farmers about the significance of farming and pursuing dreams; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Mills has served both his local community and the state in many capacities, including his participation on the Virginia Farm Bureau's board of directors as well as on the advisory board for the Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; and

**WHEREAS**, during his two-year tenure on the Board of Visitors, Mr. Mills has served as a member of both the Buildings and Grounds Committee and the Compliance, Audit, and Risk Committee. He was also a strong supporter of and participant in the Agricultural Research and Extension Centers tour that occurred in February 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, the members of the Board have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know Robert, his wife, Cindy, and their two sons, and have enjoyed their company at Board meetings, football games, and other university events;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the Board of Visitors of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University hereby extend their sincere appreciation to Mr. Robert J. Mills, Jr., for his outstanding loyalty and devoted service, and for his faithful dedication to the university and its missions.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the resolution recognizing Robert J. Mills, Jr., for his service as a member of the Board of Visitors be approved.

August 26, 2019