

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION HONORING SHELLEY BUTLER BARLOW

WHEREAS, Shelley Butler Barlow served as president of the board of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services from 2019 to 2023, and in that capacity served concurrently as an ex officio member of the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors. During her four-year tenure, she has served as a member of the Governance and Administration Committee and the Executive Committee. Additionally, she was both a member and the chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee during the substantial renewal of agricultural facilities supporting the university's foundational land-grant principles and as tangible commitments were made toward physical accessibility of the campus and; and

WHEREAS, Shelley received her bachelor's degree in agriculture from the Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences in 1982 and is co-owner of Cotton Plains Farm in Suffolk, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Shelley is a member of the Suffolk City Council and has served on the Farm Bureau's AgPAC Board and Cotton Advisory Committee, the USDA Farm Service Agency, and the Virginia Agribusiness Council. She has also held various leadership roles including the Virginia representative on the National Cotton Board, county committee chair for the Suffolk USDA Farm Service Agency, and vice chair of the Virginia Cotton Board from 2011 to 2018: and

WHEREAS, voted the 2010 Farm Woman of the Year by the Virginia Farm Bureau, Shelley was also a member of the 2014-2016 class, and the 2016 fellow, of the Virginia Agriculture Leaders Obtain Results (VALOR) program, as well as a past participant of the Virginia Cooperative Extension Leadership Program; and

WHEREAS, additionally she volunteers her time within her local community at the Wesley Chapel UMC, the Possum Hollow Ruritan Club, and as garden coordinator for Healthy Suffolk, a local non-profit that supports community and school gardens; and

WHEREAS, the members of the board have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know Shelley and her husband, Joe, 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 Shelley Butler Barlow for her outstanding loyalty and devoted service, and for her faithful dedication to the university and its missions.

RECOMMENDATION:

August 29, 2023

That the resolution recognizing Shelley Butler Barlow for her service as a member of the Board of Visitor's be approved.

August 29, 2023