

SUMMARY

New Appointments to Endowed Chairs, Professorships, or Fellowships (1)

November 19, 2024

Each college has formal procedures for the nomination and appointment to endowed chairs, professorships, and fellowships that include review by a college honorifics committee or promotion and tenure committee.

After review by the appropriate college committee the college dean makes recommendations for approval by the provost and the Board of Visitors. Such an appointment may continue through the active career of the professor at the university, unless it is relinquished in favor of some other honored or administrative appointment or unless the appointment has specific term limitations that may be renewable.

The following faculty members are recommended for endowed chairs, professorships, or fellowships at Virginia Tech.

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (1)

Mario Ortez

James A. and Renae C. Pearson
Collegiate Faculty Fellowship

ENDOWED FELLOWSHIP
James A. and Renae C. Pearson Collegiate Faculty Fellowship

The James A. and Renae C. Pearson Collegiate Faculty Fellowship was established in 2017 by James and Renae Pearson. The intent of this gift is to support a named Fellowship in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics. The individual will, in collaboration with the David M. Kohl Chair and the Kohl Junior Faculty Fellow, provide leadership for the teaching and experiential learning aspects of the Kohl Agribusiness Centre and other educational agribusiness programs within the department that financially and intellectually support the missions of teaching, research, and extension in farm and agribusiness management.

In concurrence with the recommendation of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Department Honorifics Committee, and interim department head Dr. George Davis, Dean Marrio Ferruzzi nominates Dr. Mario Ortez to be the James A. and Renae C. Pearson Collegiate Faculty Fellow.

Dr. Ortez brings a wealth of experience to his role. Grounded in the food and agricultural sector, he has worked in academia, the private sector, and as an entrepreneur. With a background in agricultural investment and the meat industry, Dr. Ortez has a deep understanding of the field.

Having owned a farm for a decade, he understands the challenges and rewards of running a business firsthand. He is dedicated to sharing his knowledge with students. Dr. Ortez's goal is to inspire and guide future agribusiness practitioners, supporting them in their learning journey at Virginia Tech and preparing them as leaders once they graduate.

His research has been broadcasted in a variety of outlets beyond academic journals, including popular industry magazines in the U.S. and overseas such as *Hoards Dairyman*, *Food Technology & Manufacturing*, and *Med India*.

Dr. Ortez has served as guest and lead editor of the Purdue Agricultural Economics (PAER) which is Purdue's Agricultural Economics Department's flagship communication review channel with the Food and Agricultural Industry in the state and beyond.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Mario Ortez be appointed the James A. and Renae C. Pearson Collegiate Faculty Fellow for a five-year term effective January 1, 2025 with the appropriate salary stipend and operating budget as provided by the endowment.

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