Iowa State University Facility Naming

Action Requested: Iowa State University request Board approval to name the academic building of its veterinary medicine complex “Frederick Douglass Patterson Hall” in honor of Dr. Frederick Douglass Patterson.

- Board’s Policy Manual §2.3, section 17 requires Board approval of proposed honorary namings of all “Major Units.” Major Units include entire buildings, wings of buildings, colleges, programs, and large sections of campus.

Executive Summary: The ISU College of Veterinary Medicine sought and received feedback and support for this proposed naming from campus leaders, students, faculty, staff, alumni and other stakeholders. The President’s Advisory Committee on Naming University Property reviewed and recommended this proposal. Dr. Patterson’s family descendants are likewise supportive.

In 1923, Dr. Patterson was the fourth graduate of Iowa State University’s College of Veterinary Medicine. He earned a master’s degree at Iowa State, and a Ph.D. from Cornell University, before embarking on a distinguished career in academia and public service. His professional accomplishments include:

- President of Tuskegee University at age 34, and founder of its colleges of veterinary medicine and engineering.
- Founder of the Tuskegee Aeronautical Sciences program, which developed the 332nd Fighter Group in World War II, better known as the Tuskegee Airmen.
- Co-founder of the United Negro College Fund, which has raised over $5 billion in scholarships for Black students.
- Recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our Nation's highest civilian honor, awarded in 1987 by President Ronald Reagan. Dr. Patterson is the only veterinarian and one of only three Iowa State alumni to receive this award.
As President Reagan noted in the Medal of Freedom ceremony about Dr. Patterson: “By his inspiring example of personal excellence and unselfish dedication, he has taught the nation that, in this land of freedom, no mind should be allowed to go to waste.”

The portion of the veterinary medicine complex proposed for naming encompasses the primary academic centers, classrooms, college administrative offices, academic department offices, research laboratories, library, main entrance, and common spaces shown in the included graphics. The named portion would exclude the Lloyd Veterinary Medical Center, the (new) Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory facility, the Veterinary Field Services building, and the Veterinary Medicine Research Institute and associated outbuildings. This proposal does not involve the naming of the college, any departments, nor any academic programs.