



The University of Vermont
FOUNDATION

ROBERT L. PARSONS FUND FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN PRODUCTION AGRICULTURE

ESTABLISHMENT

The purpose of this Agreement is to summarize the understanding of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College ("the University" and the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College Foundation, Inc. ("UVM Foundation") regarding the establishment of the Robert L. Parsons Fund for Professional Development in Production Agriculture (the "Fund") for the benefit of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College (the "University").

INTENTIONS OF THE FOUNDING DONOR

The Founding Donor requests, and UVM Foundation agrees, to establish the Fund based on the following intentions of the Founding Donor:

Robert Lee Parsons (Bob) grew up in Centre County Pennsylvania. He was born in Bellefonte, and was raised on a small dairy/general crop farm in Rock Spring where he enjoyed farm life and was active in 4-H competing in local, state and national events. He graduated from State College High School in 1971 and went on to work at Smeltzer's Farm Equipment Dealership in Centre Hall while taking college classes at the Pennsylvania State University, College Park. He graduated from Penn State with a B.S in Agribusiness Management and an M.S. in Agricultural Economics and Operations Research in 1987. He went on to earn his doctorate in Agricultural Economics from Virginia Tech in Blacksburg in 1995 after which he returned to Penn State as a research and extension associate. He met Grace Matiru, a PhD student in Agricultural Economics there and they were married in 1998 and had one son, Jesse. In 2000, they moved to the University of Vermont where Bob served as Extension Professor in the Department of Community Development and Applied Economics. In February 2018, Bob passed away at the age of 64.

While at UVM, Bob delivered management education on profitability, viability and sustainability to farmers across the state of Vermont, conducted national trainings for USDA Farm Service Agency Loan Officers, and, in collaboration with numerous colleagues in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs) and other institutions, raised over \$11 million in grant funding. Bob also mentored both undergraduate and graduate students, taught courses in agricultural policy, dairy project planning, and

volunteered his expertise to Land O' Lakes projects training extension specialists and farmers in Albania, Kenya, Malawi, South Africa and Zambia.

Bob's heart was in production agriculture. He appreciated the opportunity that higher education had afforded him to work in and support this vital sector. In his memory and gratitude to the University of Vermont and his colleagues, Bob's family and friends contributed to this Fund.

The Founding Donor wishes to remain anonymous as it relates to support for this Fund.

PURPOSE

Distributions from the Fund shall be used to support the education and professional development of agricultural producers and students through activities including, but not limited to: attending national and international conferences and workshops; internships and partnerships with experienced practitioners; facilitation of guest speakers who represent production agriculture; workshops on farm profitability, viability and transition/transfer; professional development in sustainable agricultural production; and other professional skill-building opportunities.

Students eligible for support include CALS students in production agriculture, with priority accorded to those students enrolled in the 2+2 program. Awards may also be given to CALS students in other programs that support instruction and research in production agriculture. Awards to students are intended to be supplemental funds to enhance their education, and not simply replacement of existing financial aid. If laws or policies prevent the award from resulting in additional funds to students (not simply replacement of existing financial aid), then the Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, in collaboration with UVM Foundation, may modify the award in whatever way necessary to achieve the intent of awarding additional (not replacement) funds to the student.

The Founding Donor expressly prohibits funds being used for the following purposes: salaries and benefits for UVM employees, including CALS Faculty or Extension Faculty/Specialists and employees; or facilities and administrative costs incurred by CALS in the daily operation of the College (e.g., electricity, heating, air conditioning costs; telecommunications costs; building depreciation; equipment and maintenance costs; and general administrative expenses).

The Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences will decide on the allocation of funds, in keeping with the intentions of the Founding Donor. The Dean has the option of forming an award committee to solicit requests for support annually and provide guidance on awardee selection. Such a committee may include representatives with expertise in and commitment to production agriculture including: CALS faculty, Extension faculty/specialists, students from farm backgrounds and community stakeholders from farm support organizations. The Dean will have the final say on the awards, and neither the award committee nor the Founding Donor may have a role in the final selection of awardees.