

College Name Change from College of Agriculture and Life Sciences to College of Agriculture, Life and Environmental Sciences

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To: Burgess, Shane C - (shaneburgess) <sburgess@cals.arizona.edu>

Dear Colleagues,

At the divisional business retreat of 22 November 2021, CALS academic unit heads and other appointed administrators, as well as faculty and staff shared governance representatives, initiated a discussion about changing our college name from the **College of Agriculture and Life Sciences** to the **College of Agriculture, Life and Environmental Sciences**.

This proposal centered on the idea that this name change will better explicitly reflect and represent our people and the size and scope of our commitment to, and excellence in, the environment sciences. Since the retreat, this idea has been discussed and endorsed by leaders across the college. I fully concurred and supported moving forward at the business retreat.

I have tasked Melanie Hingle, Assistant Dean for Strategic Implementation, to assume direct responsibility for the process. Melanie's next step is to solicit your input using a survey tool and she will also be meeting with our representative shared governance groups.

Please respond to this two-question [survey](#) by 9am on Wednesday, February 15.

Rationale

'CALS' doesn't reflect the full breadth of who we are, our continuum of expertise, and the programs we deliver.

- Environmental research is 43% of our college's total research expenditures.
- 25% of our courses and 30% of total student credit hours are environmental science.
- More than one-third of our MS degrees and one-half of our PhD degrees are environment-focused.
- Three out of 22 CALS undergraduate degrees and 19% of CALS undergraduate degree seekers are focused specifically on the environment.
- Last year, 16% of our Gen Ed course seats were "environment" focused.

Environment is and always has been inseparably a part of all our agriculture Extension, teaching, and research. It is a key component of our human health and wellness, conservation, and One Health programs in our life sciences Extension, teaching, and research. Of UA's peer land-grant colleges, more than half use environment or natural resources in their names.

The proposed name change implies no change in strategy or investment or in emphasis on work that is not explicitly 'environment' -- it reflects what we have done in the past, do now and will be even more important to society in the future.

Thank you for your time in responding to the survey.

Regards,
Shane

CONCURRENCE:

Mike Staten, Bart Cardon Associate Dean for Academic Programs and Career Development
Parker Antin, Associate Vice President for Research
Mitch McClaran, Director, Arizona Experiment Station
Jeff Ratje, Associate Vice President, Finance, Administration and Operations
Ed Martin, Interim Director, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension
Jim Davis, Associate Vice President, Advancement, Advocacy, Alumni Affairs and Corporate Relations
Jon Chorover, Environmental Science
Kitt Farrell-Poe, Biosystems Engineering
David Galbraith, Plant Sciences
Scott Going, Nutritional Sciences and Wellness
Bruce Tabashnik, Entomology
Robert Torres, Agricultural Education, Technology, and Innovation
Gary Thompson, Agricultural and Resource Economics
Laura Scaramella, Norton School of Human Ecology
Dieter Steklis, Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences
Willem van Leeuwen, Natural Resources and the Environment

Shane C. Burgess

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We respectfully acknowledge the University of Arizona is on the land and territories of Indigenous peoples. Today, Arizona is home to 22 federally recognized tribes, with Tucson being home to the O'odham and the Yaqui. Committed to diversity and inclusion, the University strives to build sustainable relationships with sovereign Native Nations and Indigenous communities through education offerings, partnerships, and community service.