



EXECUTIVE

September 25, 2025

**PHILANTHROPIC NAMING REQUEST FOR THE
HILLTOPPER FIELDHOUSE**

REQUEST:

Approval of the philanthropic naming of the Hilltopper Fieldhouse as the Tim and Sarah Ford Fieldhouse in recognition of a leadership gift.

FACTS:

Tim Ford came to the Hill in 1979 and excelled immediately on the football team. He earned CoSIDA Academic All-American First Team accolades in 1981, and he is still one of just 15 Hilltoppers – only the second at the time – to earn the distinction. His 171 career assisted tackles are currently eighth all-time in WKU program history. Ford was inducted into the W-Club Hall of Fame in 1999, and he was named to the WKU Football All-Century Team in 2018.

Tim graduated in 1982 with a Bachelor of Science in Geology. After obtaining a master's degree in Geology and Geophysics from Southern Illinois University, he went on to a 35-year career as an exploration geoscientist, working for several oil companies, primarily in Houston, TX.

Tim and his wife, Sarah, have graciously hosted numerous WKU events at their home in Franklin, Tenn., and have given their time to mentor students in both academic and athletic endeavors. In recognition of their support for scholarships, WKU Athletics and the Hilltopper Athletic Foundation, the Fords were recognized as the 2020 WKU Philanthropists of the Year.

This philanthropic naming request is recommended in recognition of Tim and Sarah Ford's history of support for WKU students and student-athletes and their countless hours of volunteerism that have opened doors and provided opportunities for Hilltoppers.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS:

WKU Planning, Design & Construction will cover cost of signage.

RECOMMENDATION:

President Timothy C. Caboni recommends the approval of the philanthropic naming of the Hilltopper Fieldhouse to the Tim and Sarah Ford Fieldhouse.

MOTION:

Approval of the philanthropic naming of the Hilltopper Fieldhouse to the Tim and Sarah Ford Fieldhouse.