

**To:** Members of the Board of Trustees

**From:** Jay Akridge, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Diversity

**Date:** June 4, 2021



**Re:** Approval to Assign the Names Frieda Parker Hall (Parker North) to Griffin Hall North and Winifred Parker Hall (Parker South) to Griffin Hall South

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On behalf of the Black Cultural Center, the Division of Diversity and Inclusion, and University Residences, I am respectfully requesting approval to:

- Rename Griffin Hall North by assigning it the name "Frieda Parker Hall" (Parker North)
- Rename Griffin Hall South by assigning it the name "Winifred Parker Hall" (Parker South)

Frieda and Winifred Parker graduated from Crispus Attucks High School in Indianapolis, Indiana and enrolled at Purdue University in 1946. The two sisters applied to live in Purdue's residence halls. In 1946, African Americans were denied access to housing in West Lafayette and were required to live in a segregated section of Lafayette, Indiana. Consequently, Purdue University denied permission for the sisters to live in the residence halls. The sisters and their family appealed this policy. Their appeal was upheld and eventually went to then-governor Ralph Gates, who finally agreed and directed Purdue University to change its housing policy. The sisters were then two of the first four African American women admitted to Purdue's residence halls; at the time, there were 25 Black students enrolled at Purdue out of over 5,000 students. Both Frieda and Winifred Parker graduated from Purdue University in 1950 and went on to long and distinguished careers dedicated to education and service to society.

Renaming Griffin Hall North and Griffin Hall South after the Parker sisters is requested in recognition of the important role that these two sisters played on the Purdue University campus and their path-breaking contribution to Purdue's history. The residence hall names of Frieda Parker Hall (Parker North) and Winifred Parker Hall (Parker South) will honor the spirit, courage, and fortitude of Mrs. Frieda Parker Jefferson and Mrs. Winifred Parker White and serve as a reminder to all future Boilermakers – and especially Boilermakers of color – of the transformational power of these personal traits.

Thank you for your consideration.

cc: Chairman Mike Berghoff  
President Mitch Daniels  
Treasurer Chris Ruhl  
Sr. Vice President for Administrative Operations, Michael B. Cline  
Assistant Treasurer Jim Almond  
Corporate Secretary Janice Indrutz  
General Counsel Steve Schultz