



**TO:** Jay T. Akridge, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Diversity

**FROM:** Matt Folk, President and CEO, Purdue for Life Foundation  
Vice President for University Advancement and Alumni Engagement,  
Purdue University

DocuSigned by:  
*Matt Folk*  
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**DATE:** October 10, 2022

**RE:** Request to name the Minority Engineering Program in honor of Don and Liz Thompson

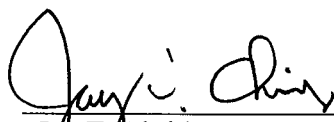
On behalf of the Purdue for Life Foundation and requested by Board of Trustees Chairman, Mike Berghoff, I request approval to officially name the Don and Liz Thompson Minority Engineering Program within the Purdue University College of Engineering.

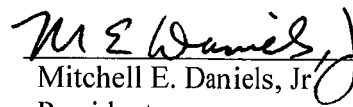
Don Thompson served as a Purdue trustee for 13 years, 2009-2022. Don and his wife Liz graduated Purdue with degrees in electrical engineering, and both were active in the Minority Engineering Program (MEP) as students. In addition to Don's time and talent he has offered Purdue for so many years, the couple established a \$1 million endowment in support of the MEP that meant so much to them.

The Minority Engineering Program first began in 1974 as one of several initiatives to improve diversity and inclusion in the College of Engineering. The program has been the key to Purdue's successful graduation of more than 3,000 engineering underrepresented minority students to date. It is because of this success that other colleges and universities across the country have adopted Purdue's Minority Engineering Program model.

As members of the University Naming Committee, I request your endorsement and assistance with moving this naming request forward to the Purdue Board of Trustees for final approval.

APPROVED:

  
Jay T. Akridge, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Diversity  
10/11/22  
Date

  
Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., President  
10/25/22  
Date