


September 25, 2024

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Dr. Radenka Maric 

RE: Modification of Name of the Wells Fargo Center for Neurodiversity and Employment Innovation

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees, as requested by the donor, modify the name of the Wells Fargo Center for Neurodiversity and Employment Innovation in the Werth Institute for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, which was previously approved by the Board of Trustees on June 26, 2024, to be known instead as the “Wells Fargo Center for Neurodiversity and Inclusive Employment at UConn.”

BACKGROUND:

The Center’s current mission is to create inclusive workplaces and foster neurodiversity acceptance through increased employer awareness and understanding of the value of neurodivergent talent. The Center advances this mission by bringing forward innovative ways for higher education to provide customized career services that increase job preparation and connection for students. This updated change is being requested by both Wells Fargo and the University staff who will support the Center. Both groups feel the new name is more inclusive of the Center’s scope of work.

Wells Fargo is a founding and strategic corporate partner of the Center and is acknowledged globally as a prominent corporate advocate for neurodiversity employment. This partnership between Wells Fargo and the University is a step towards advancing UConn as a national leader in this field.

Wells Fargo previously committed outright operational support to the Center over a five-year period. The amount is consistent with the University’s *Named Gift Guidelines*.

At their September 20 and September 24, 2024, meetings, respectively, the Institutional Advancement Committee and the Academic Affairs Committee recommended approval to the full Board.