

# FCR 4

Office of the President  
February 23, 2024

Members, Board of Trustees:

ACCEPTANCE OF CHARITABLE GRANT COMMITMENT FROM JIM BEAM BRANDS CO. AND SUBMISSION OF THE GRANT COMMITMENT TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY RESEARCH CHALLENGE TRUST FUND (RCTF) ENDOWMENT MATCH PROGRAM

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees accept a charitable grant commitment of \$7,500,000, from Jim Beam Brands Co. (the “Donor”) of Clermont, Kentucky, to support the University of Kentucky’s James B. Beam Institute for Kentucky Spirits and submit \$3,750,000 of this grant commitment for matching state funds from the Commonwealth of Kentucky Research Challenge Trust Fund (RCTF) Endowment Match Program. Further, pursuant to guidelines approved by the Council on Postsecondary Education, that the Board of Trustees acknowledge its responsibility for UK’s participation in and implementation of the RCTF Endowment Match Program and for providing oversight of all university endowment funds.

Background: The 2022 General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky approved a sixth round of funding for the RCTF Endowment Match Program. UK has been allocated \$20,000,000 of matching state funds for endowments supporting initiatives in the fields of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and health (i.e., STEM+H). Furthermore, the endowments are to support research activities that stimulate business development, increase externally sponsored research, create better jobs and a higher standard of living, and facilitate Kentucky’s transition to a knowledge-based economy. The RCTF Endowment Match Program requires a dollar-for-dollar match of private to public funds at a minimum. To increase the impact of the state funds, UK will match each state dollar with two dollars of private funds. As a result, UK will leverage \$20,000,000 of state funds into \$60,000,000.

Jim Beam® is the world's best-selling bourbon, crafted by seven generations of family distillers since 1795. Jim Beam Brands Co.’s parent company, Beam Suntory, was created in 2014 by combining the world leader in bourbon and the pioneer in Japanese whisky to form a new company that promotes innovative spirit and a passion for quality. The Jim Beam Brands Co. and the University of Kentucky share a common goal of maintaining the welfare, prosperity, and sustainability of Kentucky’s spirit industry for generations to come. This shared commitment led to a partnership in 2019 to expand support for and rename an existing institute the “James B. Beam Institute for Kentucky Spirits” (the “Institute”). The Institute is growing the next generation of distillers, scientists, and engineers who can tackle the needs of this industry well into the future. Since its inception, the exceptional teaching, research, and outreach programs of the Institute have

