

Office of the President
February 21, 2025

Members, Board of Trustees:

APPOINTMENT OF THE DEAN OF THE MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of Dr. Laura Stephenson as dean of the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, effective January 1, 2025.

Background: Dr. Stephenson earned her B.S. and M.A. in Vocational Home Economics from Eastern Kentucky University and a Ph.D. in Gerontology from the University of Kentucky. She has dedicated her career to addressing community needs by leveraging research-based expertise from faculty and extension agents. Dr. Stephenson values partnerships with commodity groups, local leaders and statewide stakeholders.

Dr. Stephenson joined the University in 2018 and served as Associate Dean and Director of the Cooperative Extension Service and Associate Vice President of Land-Grant Engagement. Her extensive career in the Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service included positions as County Agent, District Director, and Assistant Director for Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) Extension Field Programs. Additionally, she served as Associate Dean and Department Chair for FCS Extension at the University of Tennessee.

Her commitment to the land-grant mission, teaching, research and extension, is unwavering. Dr. Stephenson's vision focuses on strengthening Kentucky's agriculture, economy and health by educating future leaders, fostering innovation through cutting-edge research and expanding outreach efforts to create a meaningful and lasting impact on communities across the Commonwealth and beyond.

Additionally, in her roll as dean, she serves as the Vice President of Land-grant Engagement.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____