

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR THE  
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA SYSTEM**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**April 24, 2024**

**Item H.1.**      **Grambling State University's** request for approval to establish the Willie D. Davis College of Business Endowed Professorship.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In 1989, the Louisiana Legislature created the Louisiana Education Quality Support Fund (LEQSF), referred to as "8g," which provides for multiple \$20,000, \$40,000, and \$400,000 grants to be awarded upon receipt of \$80,000, \$60,000 or \$600,000 in private donations for the establishment of endowed professorships and first generation scholarships, graduate scholarships, or endowed chairs, respectively. The law further requires that the appropriate management board authorize the establishment of such endowments prior to submission to the Board of Regents for matching funds.

Grambling State University requests the Board to create the Willie D. Davis College of Business Endowed Professorship.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the following resolution be adopted:

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves Grambling State University's request to establish LEQSF (8g) Willie D. Davis College of Business endowed Professorship.***



Office of the President

March 31, 2025

**MEMORANDUM TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF  
THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA SYSTEM**

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO ESTABLISH THE WILLIE D. DAVIS  
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP**

Grambling State University respectfully requests approval to establish the Willie D. Davis College of Business Endowed Professorship. The University wishes to recognize the legacy, achievements, and philanthropic efforts of Mr. Willie D. Davis.

Willie D. Davis was a pioneering force in American society whose legacy transcended the football field. Establishing the Willie D. Davis College of Business Endowed Professorship honors not only his extraordinary life but also reinforces Grambling State University's commitment to cultivating future generations of Black business leaders.

Your favorable consideration of this request is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Martin Lemelle, Jr., D.B.A.  
President

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**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**March 24, 2025**

**Item**                    **Grambling State University's** request for approval to establish the Willie D. Davis College of Business Endowed Professorship.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The University is requesting approval to establish the Willie D. Davis College of Business Endowed Professorship.

The University wishes to recognize the legacy, achievements, and philanthropic efforts of Mr. Willie D. Davis. Willie D. Davis was a pioneering force in American society whose legacy transcended the football field. A proud graduate of Grambling State University, Davis rose to national prominence as a Hall of Fame defensive end for the Green Bay Packers under legendary coach Vince Lombardi, where he helped lead the team to five NFL championships and two Super Bowl victories. Yet, it was his post-football achievements that truly distinguished him as a trailblazer. Earning an MBA from the University of Chicago, Davis became a highly respected business executive and entrepreneur, serving on the boards of Fortune 500 companies such as Dow Chemical, MGM, Sara Lee, and Johnson Controls — at a time when African American corporate leadership was exceedingly rare. His success represented a bridge between athletic excellence and executive leadership, embodying the transformative power of education, discipline, and vision. Establishing the Willie D. Davis College of Business Endowed Professorship honors not only his extraordinary life but also reinforces Grambling State University's commitment to cultivating future generations of Black business leaders. This long-term investment will empower faculty to inspire, educate, and mentor students in the spirit of Davis's enduring impact — where grit, intellect, and service come together to shape the American enterprise.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the following resolution be adopted:

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED***, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves Grambling State University's request for approval to establish the Willie D. Davis College of Business Endowed Professorship.