

Advancing Indoor Farming to Feed the World

A PROPOSAL RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED TO *THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA*



UCDAVIS



Dear *Muhammad*,

On behalf of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at UC Davis, I am pleased to present this exciting opportunity for you to make a campaign leadership gift to support innovation and education in indoor farming.

The future of vertical indoor farming is fundamental to the future of food security on our planet. With an expanding global population, limited natural resources and an increasingly unpredictable climate, now is the time to proactively advance healthful and high-tech methods of agriculture that can continue to support both people and our natural world. As a highly respected entrepreneur working in aeroponic food systems, you are deeply aware of these challenges and imperatives.

In addition to being first in the nation for agriculture, UC Davis is a global pioneer in the areas of sustainability, natural resource management and climate science. As part of sustaining our leadership across the agricultural and environmental sciences, it is essential that we remain at the forefront of vertical indoor farming and continue to prepare students who are ready to enter this field as experienced technicians, researchers and innovators. Your philanthropic gift to create a prestigious endowed chair in vertical indoor farming will ensure that UC Davis continues to attract top scholars and educators—enabling us to develop critical new knowledge and technologies to support efficient indoor farming while educating tomorrow's industry experts.

A sustainable future for all depends on our combined efforts today. Thank you for your consideration of this opportunity to partner with us in making a difference, now and for generations to come.

Best regards,

Helene R. Dillard, Ph.D.

Dean and Professor, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

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A Shared Vision

As an industry leader in vertical indoor farming, *Altitude*, you understand better than most the critical need to expand scientific and technical capacity in this field. Changing how we grow food—and optimizing our systems for stability no matter the climatic changes or resource challenges that arise—will only become more essential to nourishing a growing population in our dynamic world.

Your family's generous gifts to our college have made a defining difference in our capacity to conduct research into vertical indoor farming and to train tomorrow's scientists and industry leaders. As you know from working with our graduates and with Dr. Heiner Lieth, our university is committed to translating

groundbreaking agricultural research into applied knowledge, technologies and practices that serve the public good. **Now, our vision is to take the next step forward together in assuring that UC Davis is a trailblazer in vertical indoor farming for decades to come.**

Following our recent conversations, we are pleased to present you with an opportunity to invest in research and education that can help transform how we feed the world. With your philanthropic gift to create an endowed chair in vertical indoor farming, UC Davis can be a global leader in the cutting-edge science and training upon which so many people will come to rely.

An Invitation

Altitude, we respectfully request your consideration of a philanthropic gift of \$2 million to name an endowed chair in vertical indoor farming.

Your leadership gift to UC Davis' comprehensive campaign will be invested permanently, with the interest it generates used to accelerate the work of top professors in vertical indoor farming who will guide UC Davis and our students to lead the world in this area.

An Invitation

At Atrium, we invite your consideration of a \$2 million philanthropic gift to name an endowed chair in vertical indoor farming within the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. Creating this position will ensure that UC Davis can recruit and retain best-in-class researchers and educators to lead our work in vertical indoor farming for generations to come.

Naming this endowed chair in the Department of Plant Sciences is a top priority for UC Davis' comprehensive campaign. **Your leadership gift to create an endowed chair in vertical indoor farming will create a permanent resource to advance science, technology and education in this area—one that will forever be aligned with your family's legacy and esteem in the industry.**

Expanding scientific and technical capacity in indoor farming is crucial to feeding a growing population in a changing world. By naming this endowed position at UC Davis, you will ensure that vital indoor farming research remains a scientific priority on our campus—and that top UC Davis professors will position this field for its next quantum leap forward.





Endowed Chairs: A Powerful Force

World-class faculty are a key reason UC Davis is a top-tier research institution and an education powerhouse. Our renowned professors' ingenuity, passion and drive for solutions fuel a flourishing campus culture of innovation, creativity and service to society. As a cornerstone of prestigious compensation packages for top scholars, endowed faculty positions play a vital role in securing UC Davis' ability to attract and keep the very best researchers and educators.

Your \$2 million gift to create the *Mull* Family Endowed Chair in Vertical Indoor Farming will ensure that UC Davis always has the capacity to hire internationally renowned researcher-educators working in this area.

An endowment permanently invests the principal sum of your gift so that it generates funds forever, with annual interest providing stable financial resources to advance scholarship and discovery. Endowed chairs foster ecosystems of excellence, powerfully expanding a professor's research capacity as well as the opportunities available to students who assist in labs as junior colleagues. These same students will go on to become tomorrow's industry leaders.

We propose that this chair be named in honor of your family, or we would be pleased to work with you to choose a different name that reflects your legacy. **Your philanthropic gift at this key moment will build significantly on your previous gifts to support indoor farming research and education at UC Davis, ensuring that the brightest professors and students focused on vertical indoor farming are forever supported thanks to the resources the *Mull* Family Endowed Chair will provide.** Making a philanthropic gift to our campaign now will also inspire others to build on your impact with gifts of their own.

*"The near-future possibilities for vertical indoor farming might sound like science fiction, but they are what my lab is working on right now. The *Mull* Family Endowed Chair would dramatically accelerate vertical indoor farming research and ensure that UC Davis leads the field and serves as a partner to industry for generations to come."*

- DR. HEINER LIETH, professor and extension specialist in crop ecology





The Right Place at the Right Time

Vertical indoor farming is on the cusp of a revolution—one powered by transfers of knowledge from the private to the public domain. This revolution promises not only resource-efficient food production, but also a massive stimulus for agriculture and the global economy that will shape the course of how life continues to thrive on this planet.

Our land-grant university was founded in large part to address the needs of the agricultural industry in California. Decades after Professor Dennis Robert Hoagland developed the nutrient solution commonly used in vertical indoor farming today, we are now able to grow food without sunlight or pesticides, using orders of magnitude less water than conventional farming.

Now is the time to fully evolve our mission for a digital age in which high-tech tools are key to optimizing our limited resources—to set

the new global standards by which agricultural management can nourish a growing population and interlinked economies while protecting natural resources for future generations. How do we design lighting systems that are more energy-efficient than the sun, or expand hydroponics in a way that large-scale agriculture can assimilate? **Your gift to endow a faculty chair in vertical indoor farming will help to answer these and other pressing questions that demand high-tech, data-informed, science-based solutions.**

In addition to our expertise in vertical indoor farming, UC Davis is at the forefront of so many disciplines—from food and soil science to crop ecology, plant physiology and agricultural engineering—that are fundamental to solving problems of food security and agricultural sustainability. Vertical indoor farming is vitally important

to the people of California and the world, and the demand for these methods and technologies across many global industries will only grow. Your gift to create the *Mukul* Family Endowed Chair in Vertical Indoor Farming will amplify the impact of our university's world-leading strengths and help catalyze the innovation needed to bring new indoor farming solutions within reach.

Private philanthropic support has always been key to our university's success in serving the public good and being a trusted partner to industry—and as we prepare to launch our comprehensive campaign, it is more critical than ever. Through gifts like yours, UC Davis has the leading faculty scientists, expert staff and diverse student body who will confront head-on the challenges of balancing robust food production with social and environmental responsibility.



With Gratitude

Mi Mi, thank you for your consideration of a \$2 million gift to establish the *Mi Mi* Family Endowed Chair in Vertical Indoor Farming. This prestigious position will help ensure our place as a global leader in indoor farming research over the coming decades. We look forward to continuing our conversations about how we can help cement your family's philanthropic legacy at UC Davis.

With your partnership, we can drive the industry forward through leading-edge science and our shared commitment to serving the public good. Together, we can change the future of food production for the better—in California and around the globe.





Ways of Giving

We respect that, for each donor who wishes to provide significant philanthropic support, there are personal, financial and gift planning aspects to consider. We will work with you to realize your philanthropic vision and develop the gift plan that best meets your needs. At your request, we can also work with your tax and financial advisors. Following are various gift types and their associated benefits. You may wish to consider a mix of gift types to help you achieve both your philanthropic and financial objectives.

Cash Gifts

- Are the simplest and most popular giving method
- Can be tax deductible in the year they are given

Gifts of Securities

- Include stocks, mutual funds and bonds
- Can avoid capital gains taxes
- Can provide an income tax deduction for the full fair market value of long-term, appreciated securities

Gifts of Real Property

- Include land, farms, personal residences, and rental or commercial property
- Can avoid capital gains tax on appreciated assets
- Can provide an income tax deduction for the full fair market value of long-term, appreciated property
- Can eliminate property expenses and taxes
- Can provide continued use for life through a retained life estate gift

Bequests and Living Trusts

- Establish the UC Davis Foundation as a beneficiary of your estate
- Can provide an estate tax deduction equal to the value of the gift
- Offer flexibility by allowing you to provide for family first

Retirement Plan Gifts

- For current gifts, utilize the IRA Charitable Rollover provision (*for donors aged 70½ and older*)
- Name the UC Davis Foundation as a beneficiary
- Can eliminate income tax on the plan distributions
- Preserve the plan's full value for gift purposes

Life Income Gifts

- Include charitable remainder trusts and gift annuities
- Can provide potential tax savings on income, estate and capital gains
- Generate income for you and/or your loved ones for a fixed period of time or until your passing
- Distribute the remaining assets to the UC Davis Foundation