

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Building Naming

Action

Requested: Authorization to name the new Robotics building in honor of  
Ford Motor Company

Background:

Ford Motor Company and the University of Michigan have a long partnership.

The Ford/U-M Innovation Alliance is the University's most expansive industry research collaboration, involving faculty in multiple schools and colleges on the Ann Arbor and Dearborn campuses. The joint Ford/U-M autonomous vehicle project is the largest university research effort Ford has sponsored on any campus, and the largest industry-funded research project at U-M.

Ford is one of the top recruiting companies at the University of Michigan.

Most recently, the company made a leadership gift of \$15 million to the College of Engineering to support the construction of the new Robotics building on North Campus.

The state-of-the-art facility will house classrooms, offices, a start-up style open collaboration area and tailored lab space for a variety of robotic technologies. Plans include a three-story fly zone for autonomous aerial vehicles, an outdoor obstacle course for walking robots, and high-bay garage space for self-driving cars. In a unique agreement that was approved by the Regents and announced in September, Ford will lease the fourth floor and open a Ford research laboratory to accelerate and deepen its exceptional research collaborations with the University. This will be the first Ford research facility co-located in an academic building.

In recognition of Ford Motor Company's significant gifts and dedication to the University of Michigan, we recommend that the Board of Regents formally designate the Robotics building as the Ford Motor Company Robotics Building.

Respectfully submitted,



Alec D. Gallimore, Ph.D.  
Robert J. Vlasic Dean of Engineering  
College of Engineering



Kevin Hegarty  
Executive Vice President and  
Chief Financial Officer

April 2017