

Date: May 12, 2026

To: Faculty Senate Academic Affairs Committee
CC: Office of the Registrar

Subject: Request for Spring 2027 Posthumous Degree Award – Myles Conard

I am writing to respectfully request the awarding of a Spring 2027 Posthumous Degree for Myles Conard, who tragically lost his life on February 24, 2026.

Myles completed 78 credit hours at Kansas State University and brought in an additional 23 transfer credit hours during his academic career. While not all of those hours directly applied toward the Bachelor of Science in Construction Science and Management, this reflects a path common among many students who refine their academic and professional goals through a change in major. Despite that transition, Myles remained committed to completing his education and made substantial progress toward his degree requirements.

Importantly, Myles maintained consistent academic engagement, enrolling in coursework during 8 of his last 9 semesters at Kansas State University. At the time of his passing, he was enrolled in a full course load of 13 credit hours for the Spring 2026 semester. Had he been able to complete that semester, he would have reached the college's 90-credit-hour threshold within the Construction Science and Management curriculum, completing at least 90 of the 120 hours required for the degree. He was making steady progress toward graduation and was on track to complete the program in Spring 2027.

Although I did not have the opportunity to know Myles personally, he was a student in our department for nine semesters. He developed long-lasting relationships with many of our students and faculty. He was a student who struggled to pay for his education and chose to take a lighter academic load for several semesters, allowing him to work more during the semester. Granting a posthumous degree would serve as a recognition of Myles' determination and hard work to complete his degree, and would provide comfort and honor to his family.

It is essential to consider the broader context in which Myles's loss is experienced. Suicide rates within the construction industry have been widely reported as higher than those in other professions. Recognizing Myles through a posthumous degree not only honors his academic pursuits but also helps ensure that his memory, and the experiences of others who have struggled with mental health challenges, remain part of our ongoing conversations. In doing so, we affirm our responsibility as an academic community to support student wellbeing and to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health.

Awarding Myles a posthumous degree would recognize not only the significant academic progress he achieved but also his perseverance and continued commitment to earning his

degree after changing academic direction. His record demonstrates sustained effort, meaningful progress toward completing the program, and a clear intention to complete his education at Kansas State University.

Presenting a posthumous degree to Myles' family during the Spring 2027 Commencement Ceremony will allow them some closure on this chapter in Myles' life journey.

Sincerely,



Katie Loughmiller
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Bradley A. Kramer
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