TO: Members of the Board of Trustees
FROM: Sabah Randhawa, President, Melynda Huskey, Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services, Leonard Jones, Director, University Residences
DATE: December 11, 2020
SUBJECT: Naming of New Residence Hall for Alma Clark Glass
PURPOSE: Action Item

Purpose of Submittal:
Sabah Randhawa, Melynda Huskey, and Leonard Jones will present information and ask the Board of Trustees to consider action to approve naming the new residence hall under construction on Highland Drive for Alma Clark Glass, the first Black student to attend Western Washington University.

Proposed Motion:
MOVED, that the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University, upon the recommendation of the President, approve that the new residence hall on Highland Drive be named Glass Hall.
RESOLUTION NO. 2020-04

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

TO NAME THE NEW RESIDENCE HALL ON HIGHLAND DRIVE (PW746)

ALMA CLARK GLASS HALL

WHEREAS, Western Washington University is committed to providing access to transformational higher education for the people of the State of Washington, pursuing justice and equity in its policies and practices, and supporting an inclusive and welcoming campus environment that celebrates the dignity and value of all students, faculty, and staff; and

WHEREAS, Western’s 2018 – 2025 Strategic Plan acknowledges Western has failed to meet the needs of people of many races, ethnicities, creeds, socioeconomic classes, gender identities, sexual orientations, and disability statuses, and states Western will contribute to redressing these inequities by transforming policies, structures, and practices to ensure meaningful inclusion; and

WHEREAS, a letter submitted by the leaders of Black student organizations in June 2020 expressed an urgent desire to see Western consider how the names of its buildings fail to reflect the experiences of Black and other diverse students; and

WHEREAS, Western aspires to make its residence halls a welcoming “home away from home” community for students, and a place where individuals of all identities feel a sense of belonging, safety, and support for their personal growth at Western; and

WHEREAS, the naming of a residence hall presents a unique opportunity to physically and symbolically embed the institution’s commitments to fostering greater diversity, equity, and inclusion in one of the most intimate student-centered spaces on campus; and

WHEREAS, according to University records, ALMA CLARK GLASS was the first Black student to enroll at Washington State Normal School at Bellingham, completing coursework in psychology, geography, physical culture, biology, and botany, as well as observation and practice teaching in the winter and spring of 1906; and

WHEREAS, ALMA CLARK GLASS became an assistant librarian in the Seattle Public Library System in November 1906, having achieved the highest score on the civil service examination, according to the Seattle Republican newspaper; and

WHEREAS, ALMA CLARK GLASS was a founding member of the Seattle chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in 1913, and served as a member of the Board of Directors for the Seattle Urban League in 1946; and

WHEREAS, the new dormitory replacing Highland Hall has been designed around inclusive, communal living and collaborative spaces, and will provide ADA access to the steeply graded Ridgeway Housing Complex for the first time;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University, that the new residence hall on Highland Drive be named

ALMA CLARK GLASS HALL

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University at its meeting on December 11, 2020.

ATTEST:

John M. Meyer, Chair

Susan K. Sharpe, Secretary
ALMA CLARK
GLASS 1885-1965

• Born in Tennessee
• Moved to Seattle with her family in 1889.
• Came to Western in January 1906
• Became an assistant librarian in Seattle Public Library system in November 1906
• Married Stephen A. Glass in 1908; the couple had a son, Stephen Glass, Jr. in 1911
• Founding member of the Seattle NAACP in 1913.
• Served on Board of Directors of Seattle Urban League in 1946
WWU IN 1906

Main Building (1906)

Normal Dining Hall (later known as Edens Hall) (1905-1906)
"Whereas, - Certain misleading statements have been published with regard to the race question at the Bellingham Normal School, "resolved that the school is for the benefit of all the people of the State of Washington, regardless of color, race or politics, good work and good morals being the essentials required of students."
GLASS HALL FLYTHROUGH
GLASS HALL