

Campus Named Spaces Review Committee – Arnold and Betty Wells Handball Courts - Recommendation, January 28, 2025

Request:

In January 2025, University Advancement, submitted a request to name the handball courts in Pennington Hall at Minnesota State University, Mankato be named “Arnold and Betty Wells Handball Courts.” This naming is part of the \$50,000 donation by Arnold Wells in support of the MSU Handball Team.

Recommendation to name the handball courts after Arnold and Betty Wells

Summary:

The Campus Named Spaces Committee recommends that the handball courts located inside Pennington Hall at Minnesota State University, Mankato be named “Arnold and Betty Wells Handball Courts.” This naming is part of the \$50,000 donation by Arnold Wells in support of the MSU Handball Team.

Naming the space in honor of Arnold and Betty Wells aligns with the [Campus Named Spaces Policy](#). Overall it supports the current [mission, vision, values](#), and [diversity and inclusion goals](#) of Minnesota State University, Mankato.

This naming also aligns with the [Minnesota State System Naming Buildings, Sites and Common Areas policy](#). Arnold Wells was a long-time Economics professor at the University.

This is a philanthropically funded naming recommendation. Per the Campus Named Spaces Policy, racial equity related to gender, ability and other identity categories are not a primary focus for this type of naming opportunity. However, the spaces are named after both a man and a woman, which recognizes the value both individuals brought to the university community.

This name change would impact campus maps and electronic listings (website, etc.) for the space (within Campus Recreation, the EMS, and campus Planning & Construction). Creative Productions should be informed of all naming changes for campus maps.

University Advancement and/or the handball program would be responsible for funding signage changes for the space and within Pennington Hall and adjacent buildings (if applicable) as part of the financial gift.

Research Review:

Below is a chart that summarizes the findings of the committee. All compiled research material of what was reviewed as well as any identified concerns, are available upon request.

Name of Building or Landmark	Individual(s) Researched	University Affiliation	Reason for Recognition	Concerns
Handball Courts	Arnold and Betty Wells	Arnold was longtime employee and handball coach Betty is the spouse of a former employee	Financial donation; Service to university	None at this time.

Campus Named Spaces Committee – January 2025

Chair: Dr. Christopher Corley – Dean of Library and Learning

Jen Besel – Assistant Director of Communications, Office of the President

Mark Constantine – Director, CSU & Student Activities

Megan Heutmaker – Director of American Indian Affairs

Nate Huettl – Planning & Construction Director, Finance & Administration

Dr. Chad McCutchen – Faculty, Assistant Professor, Department of History

Daardi Mixon – University Archivist, Professor

Brian Zins – Director of Alumni Relations, University Advancement

Research Support provided by University Archives staff.