



College of Agriculture

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

Bernie Engel

Glenn W. Sample Dean of Agriculture

MEMORANDUM

TO: Patrick Wolfe, Provost
FROM: Bernie Engel, Dean of Agriculture
DATE: April 15, 2026
RE: Robert and Karen Thompson Chair in International Agricultural Economics

BOARD APPROVED
June 5, 2026
Cindy Ream
Corporate Secretary

I am pleased to recommend Dr. Channing Arndt for appointment as the Robert and Karen Thompson Chair in International Agricultural Economics in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Purdue University. This recommendation follows a rigorous internal selection process and is supported by exceptionally strong and consistent external evaluations.

Dr. Arndt is an internationally distinguished scholar whose work aligns precisely with the purpose of the Thompson Chair: excellence in international agricultural economics, with particular strength in trade, development, and comparative agricultural policy. He currently serves as Director of the Global Trade Analysis Project (GTAP) at Purdue, a globally recognized platform for quantitative analysis and policy engagement. His leadership of GTAP further strengthens Purdue's international visibility and influence in global economic and agricultural policy research.

Dr. Arndt's scholarly record is extraordinary. With more than three decades of experience, he has produced a substantial body of highly cited research addressing global trade, agricultural development, poverty alleviation, climate change, and food systems resilience. Reviewers consistently emphasize both the quality and policy relevance of his work, noting his ability to combine rigorous analytical frameworks with strong global engagement and demonstrated leadership in major international research initiatives.

The external evaluations converge on a clear conclusion: Dr. Arndt is a scholar of the highest international standing and an outstanding fit for the Robert and Karen Thompson Chair. His appointment would further strengthen Purdue's leadership in international agricultural economics and global development scholarship.

I recommend Dr. Channing Arndt for this appointment with the strongest enthusiasm.

Approved:

04/20/2026

Patrick J. Wolfe, Provost and
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
Miller Family Professor of Statistics and Computer Science

4.29.26

Mung Chiang, President and
Roscoe H. George Distinguished
Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering