Sample Bequest Language

Language for general purposes

“I hereby give, devise, and bequeath to Cornell University (or alternatively to Cornell University for the College or unit of...), an educational corporation in Ithaca, New York, for its general purposes [the sum of $_______] OR [___ percent of all the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate].

Language for endowment

“I hereby give, devise, and bequeath to Cornell University, an educational corporation in Ithaca, New York, [money or property to be bequeathed] to establish an endowment fund to be known as the [________ Fund], the income from which shall be for the unrestricted use of Cornell University (or alternatively to Cornell University for the College or unit of ________).”

Language for scholarship

“I hereby give, devise, and bequeath to Cornell University, an educational corporation in Ithaca, New York, [money or property to be bequeathed] to establish the {...Fund}, the income from which shall be used for financial aid to students enrolled in Cornell University (or alternatively to Cornell University for the College or unit of...). The income of this fund may be used each year, or if not, may be used in a subsequent year or added to the principal of the fund. Awards from this fund shall be designated as the {...Scholarship, Fellowship, or Loan}.

Additional language to protect donor intent

If a specific use is stated, the addition of the following language will make certain that the bequest always remains productive:

“If, in the judgment of the Trustees of Cornell University, changed circumstances should at some future time render the designated use of this fund no longer appropriate, then the Trustees shall direct use of the fund to further the objects and purposes of Cornell University, giving consideration to my special interest as evidenced by the purpose described above.”

The Cayuga Society
Honoring those who have established a planned gift at Cornell