

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**REQUEST TO AWARD AN HONORARY DOCTOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA**

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by the University of Northern Iowa to award an honorary Doctor of Science degree to Mary Sue Coleman at Spring 2015 Commencement.

Executive Summary: The University of Northern Iowa wishes to recognize Dr. Coleman for her leadership in higher education and for her commitment to the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of Northern Iowa.

Details on Dr. Coleman's Accomplishments:

- ◇ Dr. Coleman, a native of Cedar Falls, graduated from Northern University High School on the campus of the University of Northern Iowa, which was called Iowa State Teachers College (ITSC) at the time. Her father was a chemistry faculty member and became the Chemistry Department's first department head when ITSC became UNI. Dr. Coleman helped in the department while she was a high school student.
- ◇ Dr. Coleman earned a Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of North Carolina and held numerous postdoctoral fellowships before joining the University of Kentucky as an assistant professor in 1975. She was promoted to full professor in 1985.
- ◇ Dr. Coleman has a distinguished record of scholarship, with more than \$7 million in extramural grant funding and more than 70 articles published in a variety of publications, including the prestigious science journal, *Nature*.
- ◇ In 1993, Dr. Coleman became the provost at the University of New Mexico and, in 1995, she was appointed president of the University of Iowa. In 2002, she was appointed president of the University of Michigan where she will serve until her retirement in June 2014.
- ◇ Dr. Coleman has provided leadership in higher education through distinguished service to the American Council on Education (ACE), the Association of American Universities (AAU), the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), and the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics. She is the immediate past chair of the Association of American Universities. She served as chair of the Internet2 Board of Trustees. She was recently named one of *Time* magazine's 10 best college presidents for her leadership at the University of Michigan.
- ◇ Dr. Coleman provides corporate leadership and promotes economic development through service on the boards of directors for the Meredith Corporation and Johnson & Johnson, as well as through service on the Michigan Economic Development Corporate Board and the Business Leaders for Michigan Board of Directors.

- ◇ Dr. Coleman's commitment to the value of a diverse perspective in the classroom was recognized by the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion with a Humanitarian of the Year Award in 2008. The Michigan Women's Foundation presented her with its Trillium Lifetime Achievement Award. The United Way of Washtenaw County named her 2014 Woman of the Year. In 2014, she received ACE's Lifetime Achievement Award.
- ◇ Dr. Coleman has not forgotten her family's roots in Cedar Falls and the University of Northern Iowa. Her generosity resulted in an endowed scholarship in her father's name; the scholarship funds top chemistry undergraduate students for four years. She and her husband, Dr. Kenneth Coleman, have also endowed a distinguished public lecture series in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of Northern Iowa.
- ◇ The University of Northern Iowa wishes to recognize Dr. Coleman both for her generosity to the University of Northern Iowa and for her commitment to and achievements in higher education.