

Contact: Rachel Boon

**REQUEST TO AWARD HONORARY DOCTORATE DEGREES
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA**

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by the University of Iowa to award an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree to Dr. Mary Sue Coleman and honorary Doctor of Science degree to Dr. Ellen R. Stofan at spring 2019 Commencement ceremonies.

Executive Summary: The University of Iowa wishes to recognize Dr. Mary Sue Coleman and Dr. Ellen R. Stofan for their contributions to their fields and society, and to honor their outstanding professional achievements.

Details on Dr. Coleman's Accomplishments:

Dr. Mary Sue Coleman is one of the nation's great leaders in higher education. Currently, she is president of the American Association of Universities (AAU), the premier organization that monitors the academic performance level of the nation's top research universities.

From 2002 to 2014, she served as the first female president of the University of Michigan, which under her leadership continued to advance as one of the top universities in the world. An unshakable advocate for diversity and inclusion, Dr. Coleman took the lead in the *Grutter vs. Bollinger* Supreme Court case on diversity through Affirmative Action at the University of Michigan Law School, and won a landmark victory. In 2009, *Time Magazine* named her one of the 10 Best American University Presidents, for her emphasis on high-quality research and fundraising for public universities.

The University of Iowa community knows Dr. Coleman best as the university's 18th (and first female) president. From 1995 to 2002, she energized the university, enhanced its academic standing among peers, and skillfully led it through a number of challenges-including bringing the campus together in the days and weeks following 9/11. During her tenure, she expanded the health sciences, championed women scholars and athletes, and enhanced the university's writing programs. She worked hard to make Iowa City the cultural capital of Iowa, contributing significantly to Iowa City ultimately becoming a UNESCO City of Literature shortly after her departure. She was instrumental to the success of the "Good. Better. Best. Iowa." Capital campaign, helping to raise more than \$1 billion. She also generously provided significant personal support for students through the establishment of the Kenneth and Mary Sue Coleman UI Presidential Scholarship.

Dr. Coleman sits on the boards of trustees of the Kavli Foundation for advancing science and support for science, the Mayo Clinic Board of Trustees, the Gates-Cambridge Scholars Program, the Society for Science and the Public, and the University of Denver. She is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine, and a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science as well as the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In those roles, she has led major studies on the consequences of lack of health insurance within the U.S. and erosion of state and federal support for the nation's public research universities.

Details on Dr. Stofan's Accomplishments

Dr. Ellen R. Stofan has had an extraordinary career as a planetary scientist, and as an advocate for public engagement in space science and for diversity in STEM fields.

Dr. Stofan's scientific career has centered around understanding the geology of Solar System inner planets Venus, Mars and Earth, as well as Saturn's moon, Titan. She has been a scientific leader on international spacecraft missions such as Cassini (a major mission that explored Saturn and landed on Titan) and the European Space Agency's Mars Express mission to Mars. For many years, she was a scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab, before taking on leadership roles in future space technologies. In 2013, she was appointed to the position of NASA Chief Scientist – one of a small and select group of women to have served in that role, in which she worked on the agency's science programs and science-related strategic planning and investments. Among many other innovative projects, she helped guide the development of a long-range plan to get humans to Mars. While at NASA, she worked with President Barack Obama's science advisor and the National Technology Council on science policy.

In 2018, Dr. Stofan was chosen to lead the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, the first woman to hold the position. She also currently co-chairs the World Economic Forum's Council on the Future of Space Technologies.

Dr. Stofan has worked closely with the UI Department of Physics and Astronomy, as an associate member of the Cassini Mission to Saturn Radar Team and a co-investigator on the Mars Express Mission's MARSIS sounder. She was invited by the Lecture Committee to speak on campus in spring 2018, and through that lecture and other generous interactions with students stoked the enthusiasm of many aspiring young scientists. As a frequent public speaker and in her new role at the National Air and Space Museum, she is passionate about inspiring the next generation of scientists-especially women and under-represented groups interested in space and astronomy.

Her many awards and honors include the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, and the NASA Distinguished Service Medal.