

March 25, 2021

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION
ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Building Name Change

Action

Requested: Authorization to change name of Life Sciences Institute Building

Proposed

Name: Mary Sue Coleman Hall

Background:

I am pleased to recommend renaming the Life Sciences Institute Building in honor of Mary Sue Coleman, 13th President of the University of Michigan.

Mary Sue Coleman is president emerita of the University of Michigan, where she served as president from August 2002 to June 2014. In 2009, *Time* magazine named her one of the nation's "10 best college presidents." From 1995-2002, she was president of the University of Iowa. Most recently, she served as president of the Association of American Universities from 2016-2020.

As a biochemist, Dr. Coleman built a distinguished research career through her research on the immune system and malignancies. For 19 years, she was a member of the biochemistry faculty at the University of Kentucky. Her work in the sciences led to administrative appointments at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the University of New Mexico, where she served as provost and vice president for academic affairs. She earned her undergraduate degree in chemistry from Grinnell College and her doctorate in biochemistry from the University of North Carolina.

Dr. Coleman was involved in a number of important initiatives, endeavors and decisions that have helped to shape the University of Michigan, including the purchase of the North Campus Research Complex from Pfizer; positioning the university to become a major force in economic development in Ann Arbor and across the state; the Residential Life Initiatives that focused on upgrading and renewing existing residence halls and dining facilities; recruiting 100 interdisciplinary junior faculty; the Google partnership that digitized the University Library's collection of 7 million volumes; and not insignificant to this proposed naming, seeing to completion the development of the Life Sciences Institute.

Dr. Coleman led "The Michigan Difference," a campaign to raise \$2.5 billion for the future of the institution. At its conclusion in December 2008, the campaign finale stood at \$3.2 billion – the most ever raised by a public university. The university launched its \$4 billion "Victors for Michigan" campaign under her leadership in November 2013. The campaign was completed in December 2018 and raised \$5.28 billion. With her husband Kenneth, Dr. Coleman has been one of the most philanthropic presidents in U-M history. They have endowed several funds: the Mary Sue and Kenneth Coleman Endowed Rackham Graduate Fellowship Fund, the Mary Sue and Kenneth Coleman Endowed Undergraduate Scholarship Fund, the Mary Sue and Kenneth

Coleman Endowed Life Sciences Institute Lecture Fund, the Mary Sue and Kenneth Coleman Global Student Experience Fund, and the Coleman Family LEAD Fund at the alumni association.

Originally constructed in 2003, the Life Sciences Institute Building is a six floor, approximately 236,000 gross square foot facility housing laboratory, office, and support spaces for the Life Sciences Institute. Through the guidance and leadership of Dr. Coleman, the leadership of several directors, and the work of its faculty, the Life Sciences Institute has grown in stature and is manifestly fulfilling its vision of interdisciplinary and groundbreaking research upon which it was founded.

Aside from a few facilities co-named in honor of benefactors, a majority of U-M campus buildings presently named in honor of women are primarily residential in nature. Renaming the Life Sciences Institute Building in honor of Dr. Coleman would recognize her enduring commitment to the sciences and her contributions as a scientist and leader in higher education.

In honor of Dr. Coleman's distinguished leadership and accomplishments, I recommend that the Board of Regents approve changing the name of the Life Sciences Institute Building to the Mary Sue Coleman Hall, effective immediately.

Respectfully submitted,



Sally J. Churchill
Vice President and Secretary of the University

March 2021