MEMORANDUM

November 15, 2017

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Kristina M. Johnson, Chancellor

SUBJECT: Naming of Learning Commons Building at SUNY Potsdam

Action Requested

The proposed resolution approves the naming of the building housing the Center for Applied Learning at the State University College at Potsdam as the Lougheed Learning Commons.

Resolution

I recommend that the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution:

Resolved that in honor of Donald (Hon. ’54) and Kathryn Kofoed Lougheed (’54), the building at SUNY Potsdam currently housing the Center for Applied Learning shall be named the “Lougheed Learning Commons”; and, be it further

Resolved that this Resolution be contingent upon final and formal approval of the SUNY Potsdam College Council in a formal meeting acceptable to the Chancellor or designee and in accordance with Education Law §356.

Background

The proposed resolution approves the naming of the building at SUNY Potsdam that contains the Center for Applied Learning for Donald and Kathryn Lougheed, contingent upon final approval of the SUNY Potsdam College Council. This action is in recognition of a $5 million pledge from the Lougheeds to support the programs of the Center for Applied Learning. This is the largest gift ever received by the SUNY Potsdam Foundation or SUNY Potsdam.
The Lougheed’s generous gift triples the amount of donor funds available for the Center for Applied Learning. The intent of this gift is to improve and enhance student opportunities to engage in high impact and applied learning activities, such as study abroad, field experiences, student research, service learning, entrepreneurship, internships, and other activities that allow students to apply theoretical learning outside the classroom environment. To that end, this gift will support faculty and staff involvement in curricular transformation, professional development, course releases, travel delegations, new program development and will fund the purchase of laboratory materials and equipment and cover transportation costs. The gift is also intended to directly fund student engagement with applied learning.

The Lougheeds have a long and generous history with SUNY Potsdam. Kathryn Lougheed graduated from SUNY Potsdam’s Crane School of Music in 1954 with a degree in Music Education. Donald is a graduate of Columbia University and an honorary member of the SUNY Potsdam Class of 1954. Even before announcing their intent to make this most recent gift, the Lougheeds already had the distinction of being the most generous donors to SUNY Potsdam in the college’s 201-year history.

The Lougheeds initial seven-figure gifts established the annual Lougheed-Kofoed Festival of the Arts, otherwise known as the “LoKo” Festival of the Arts, a 10-day celebration of the visual arts, creative writing, theatre, dance and music. LoKo provides a forum for students, faculty and artists from around the world to showcase their artistic talents, collaborate, learn from and inspire one another. The Lougheeds have breathed new life into the arts at SUNY Potsdam, providing precious resources and an annual outlet for creativity. The Loko Festival of the Arts has helped Potsdam earn the ranking of the “No. 1 arts environment in the SUNY system.” The current gift of $5 million will inspire the same kind of growth in the Center for Applied Learning.

The Lougheeds are beloved by the entire Potsdam community. SUNY Potsdam has developed a strong partnership with this special couple whose vision, generosity and belief in the College will continue to shape the education and experiences of both current and future generations of Potsdam students.