



The State University  
of New York

## Office of the Chancellor

H. Carl McCall SUNY Building  
353 Broadway, Albany, New York 12246

SUNY Global Center, 116 E 55<sup>th</sup> St,  
New York, NY 10022

[www.suny.edu](http://www.suny.edu)

## **MEMORANDUM**

**April 28, 2026**

**TO: Members of the Board of Trustees**

**FROM: Dr. John B. King Jr., Chancellor**

**SUBJECT: Naming of an Endowed Chair at the College of Arts and Sciences  
at the State University of New York at Stony Brook**

### **Action Requested**

The proposed resolution names the Michelle Millar Endowed Chair of Molecular Inorganic Chemistry at the College of Arts and Sciences at the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

### **Resolution**

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

**Whereas** Before her death in 2011, Dr. Michelle Millar was a faculty member in the State University of New York at Stony Brook's Department of Chemistry for over 25 years. She was one of the first women in the country to be a chemistry professor at a research university and the first to be hired at Stony Brook University; and

**Whereas** Dr. Millar was a premier synthetic inorganic chemist and one of the most inspiring and impactful inorganic chemists of her generation; and

**Whereas** Dr. Millar was beloved by Stony Brook students, who presented her with the Most Outstanding Advisor Award in 2003; now, therefore, be it

**Resolved** that, in recognition of the philanthropic commitment by Dr. Stephen Koch, the Michelle Millar Endowed Chair of Molecular Inorganic Chemistry at the College of Arts and Sciences at the State University of New York at Stony Brook is hereby named.

### **Background**

Dr. Millar obtained her bachelor's degree from UCLA and her Ph.D. from MIT. She also completed postdoctoral research positions with prominent chemists at Texas A & M and Cornell. After 7 years on the faculty at New York University, Dr. Millar joined the Chemistry Department at the State University of New York at Stony Brook in 1985. Dr. Millar was a premier synthetic inorganic chemist. As a postdoc, she characterized the first example of a compound containing a tungsten-tungsten quadruple bond, and the first example of a compound with a square planar carbon atom. A molecule that she synthesized had the shortest distance ever found between two metal atoms, a record that took 30 years to break.

Dr. Millar's spouse, Dr. Stephen A Koch, is an emeritus professor at Stony Brook University. Through his generous gift, he wishes to memorialize his wife who was his scientific hero.