

MEMORANDUM

March 22, 2018

To: Members of the Board of Trustees

From: Kristina M. Johnson, Chancellor

Subject: Naming of Janet R. Perna Science Building

Action Requested

The proposed resolution approves the action taken by the College at Oneonta Foundation naming the Science Building One at SUNY Oneonta the “Janet R. Perna Science Building.”

Resolution

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

Resolved that the action taken by the College at Oneonta Foundation on March 15, 2018 naming the Science Building One at SUNY Oneonta the “Janet R. Perna Science Building” in honor of Janet R. Perna ('70) be, and hereby is, approved.

Background

This resolution approves the naming of the Science Building One at SUNY Oneonta for distinguished alumna Janet R. Perna. Built in 1964 and renovated in 2006-08, this 78,388 square foot structure houses the departments of Biology and Earth & Atmospheric Sciences, and a planetarium. On March 15, 2018, the SUNY Oneonta College Council approved this naming by adoption of the attached resolution. This naming is in recognition of Ms. Perna’s \$5 million gift commitment to the College at Oneonta Foundation, which is the largest gift ever made by a graduate of SUNY Oneonta. One-half of the \$5 million gift will be allocated to the college’s unrestricted endowment, which funds many campus programs, including student research and creative activities, internship support, faculty development, and board designated scholarships. The other half will be restricted to a science, technology, engineering and mathematics scholarship in Ms. Perna’s name.

Ms. Perna graduated from SUNY Oneonta in 1970 with a major in Mathematics and Secondary Education and had a distinguished career with IBM prior to her retirement in 2006. Over the years, Ms. Perna has been very generous with her time, talent, and treasures in support of the college. She served for eight years as a member of the Board of Directors of the College at Oneonta Foundation until stepping down in 2016. Along with another college foundation board member, she co-chaired the college's successful "Visions-Solutions: The Campaign for Science and Technology" which raised over \$6 million in gifts and grants to support the STEM disciplines at SUNY Oneonta. In addition to her \$5 million gift commitment, Ms. Perna has previously made gifts totaling \$1 million to the College at Oneonta Foundation. The naming of the Science Building One for Ms. Perna will add value to the identity and importance of the STEM disciplines, and will serve as an example of the importance of philanthropy to SUNY Oneonta's campus community.

Attachment

SUNY ONEONTA

Office of the President

March 15, 2018

Dr. Kristina Johnson, Chancellor
SUNY System Administration
State University Plaza
Albany, New York, 12246

Dear Chancellor Johnson:

The SUNY College at Oneonta College Council unanimously passed the following motion to name the science building one at our meeting on March 15, 2018.

“In recognition of the generosity of Janet R. Perna, Class of 1970, to SUNY Oneonta and the State University College at Oneonta Foundation, the College Council hereby moves to name the science building one, the “Janet R. Perna Science Building” and recommends to the SUNY Board of Trustees for approval the naming of this building as written above.”

On behalf of the College Council, I am delighted to forward the enclosed resolution to you for consideration at the March 21-22, 2018, SUNY Board of Trustees’ meeting. I understand that President Nancy Kleniewski has informed you about this wonderful gift commitment and that it has your approval. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Patrick Brown
Chair, College Council

PB:csc
Enc.

cc: President Nancy Kleniewski

COLLEGE COUNCIL MEETING
March 15, 2018, 3:00 p.m. Meeting
Executive Conference Room, Netzer 341

Agenda

1. Resolution to Name Science Building One in honor of Janet R. Perna

Information Related to naming the Janet R. Perna Science Building at SUNY Oneonta

College Council Meeting – March 15, 2018

Background

SUNY Oneonta and the State University College at Oneonta Foundation seek to raise major gifts and grants in support of the college's mission and priorities. This work with alumni, faculty, staff, friends, foundations and corporations enhances the academic status of SUNY Oneonta, and leads to financial support for campus programs such as faculty development, student research, scholarships and experiential learning.

Colleges and universities develop naming programs to express gratitude and recognize their donors. A best-practice principal in the Advancement profession is the naming of prominent places on a campus in recognition of generous support given and irrevocably pledged.

Janet R. Perna graduated from SUNY Oneonta in 1970. She majored in Mathematics, and had a distinguished career with IBM prior to her retirement in 2006. Ms. Perna served as a member of the Board of Directors of our College Foundation for eight consecutive years, our maximum term, until 2016. Along with another college foundation board member, she co-chaired our successful "Visions—Solutions: The Campaign for Science and Technology" which raised over \$6 million in gifts and grants to support the STEM disciplines at SUNY Oneonta. In early February 2018, Janet responded positively to our proposal to make a \$5 million gift commitment to SUNY Oneonta's college foundation. One-half of Janet Perna's \$5 million gift will be allocated to unrestricted endowment, which funds many campus programs, including student-faculty research and creative activities, internship support, faculty development, and board designated scholarships. The other half will be restricted to the Janet Perna '70 Women in Technology Scholarship. This \$5 million will be a gift made personally by Janet Perna through a series of pledge payments, and it will be the largest gift made by a graduate of our college. Additionally, Ms. Perna has ensured completion of this gift with an irrevocable bequest through her will and estate plan should she pass away before her pledge is fulfilled.

In recognition of Janet Perna's \$5 million gift commitment, we formally request College Council approval to name the presently unnamed science building one, the "Janet R. Perna Science Building" in accordance with the State University of New York Naming Opportunities Policy and Procedure.

Motion

In recognition of the generosity of Janet R. Perna, Class of 1970, to SUNY Oneonta and the State University College at Oneonta Foundation, the College Council hereby moves to name science building one, the "Janet R. Perna Science Building" and recommends to the SUNY Board of Trustees for approval the naming of this building as written above.

SUNY Oneonta
College Council Meeting, March 15, 2018

Motion

In recognition of the generosity of Janet R. Perna, Class of 1970, to SUNY Oneonta and the State University College at Oneonta Foundation, the College Council hereby moves to name science building one, the "Janet R. Perna Science Building" and recommends to the SUNY Board of Trustees for approval the naming of this building as written above.