



Item: CG: A-1

Date: Tuesday, May 15, 2018

**SUBJECT: APPROVE NAMING OF UNIVERSITY ELEMENTS**

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### **PROPOSED BOARD ACTION**

Approve naming of the Public Ethics Academy within the College of Design and Social Inquiry. The proposed name of the program will be the "LeRoy Collins Public Ethics Academy."

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

#### **Donation:**

The LeRoy Collins Legacy Group is donating Four Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$475,000) for a recognition opportunity to name the Public Ethics Academy within the College of Design and Social Inquiry the "LeRoy Collins Public Ethics Academy" and to establish an Endowed Scholarship Fund to be known as "The LeRoy Collins Public Ethics Academy Endowed Scholarship".

#### **Gift Purpose:**

The purpose of the Donor in making this gift is to memorialize the legacy of the late Florida Governor LeRoy Collins in recognition of his outstanding leadership and lasting contributions to the State of Florida and to provide educational opportunities for students of the College of Design and Social Inquiry by establishing an Endowed Scholarship Fund and a named Academy to be known as "The LeRoy Collins Public Ethics Academy". By naming the Academy and by providing scholarship support that nurtures young, ethical, leaders, the academy and recipients of the LeRoy Collins Public Ethics Student Scholarships will continue to have a positive impact on public policy in Florida through the work of the Academy bearing the illustrious name of the former Florida Governor.

#### **Donors' Background:**

**Merrett Stierheim** has served as CEO of The Collins Center for Public Policy, which he joined in 1999 as a trustee and as president of The Leroy Collins Legacy Group since 2014. He is a retired Florida public administrator. Most recently, Mr. Stierheim served as the interim city manager for the City of Doral. His 45-plus years of service in the public sector began as manager of Miami-Dade County, where

he supervised a nearly \$5 billion countywide expansion that included the construction of Miami Metro Zoo (now Zoo Miami), the downtown library and cultural complex, the government center and several regional parks. Mr. Stierheim has served as the interim manager of the City of Miami, superintendent of Miami-Dade County Public Schools and interim town manager of Miami Lakes. In between these positions, he returned to Miami-Dade County administration for three years. Outside of Miami-Dade County, he served as city manager for the City of Clearwater and as Pinellas County Administrator. In addition to the public sector positions, Mr. Stierheim was appointed president and CEO of the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau from 1990 to 1996, and prior to that, he served as president and CEO of the Women's Tennis Association.

Mr. Stierheim graduated with a Master's degree in Governmental Administration from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business and earned a B.S. in Commerce and Finance from Bucknell University. Mr. Stierheim also received an Honorary Doctor of Law degree from Barry University. He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1953 to 1957. Mr. Stierheim lives in Miami with his wife, Judy Cannon.

**Joe Oglesby**, a Pulitzer Prize winner (1983), has served as treasurer and trustee of The Collins Center for Public Policy since June 2011 and the treasurer of The Leroy Collins Legacy Group since 2014. He had a lifelong career in journalism. He was the coordinator of the Haiti News Project, a program designed to assist Haitian newspapers and journalists recover from the January 2010 earthquake. Mr. Oglesby retired as the Editorial Page Editor at *The Miami Herald* in March 2009 after serving since 2001. He began his newspaper career as a reporter for the *Tallahassee Democrat* followed by the *St. Petersburg Times*. He became an editor at *The Philadelphia Inquirer* in 1987 followed by various positions at *The Miami Herald*. After serving as the managing editor for two years at *The State* newspaper in Columbia, South Carolina, Mr. Oglesby returned to Miami when he accepted the position of editorial page editor.

Mr. Oglesby is a member of the Board of Directors for Tropical Financial Credit Union following its merger with Financial Federal Credit Union of Miami where he served as the vice chairman since January 1995. He shared a Pulitzer Prize in 1983 for a series of editorials that argued for equal treatment of Haitian refugees. Mr. Oglesby earned a B.A. in English from Florida A&M University in 1970, and in 1984 he was awarded a Nieman Fellowship at Harvard University, where he spent the year studying public policy. He and his wife, Linda Blash, reside in Lake Clarke Shores, Florida.

**LeRoy "Roy" Collins III** is the son of LeRoy Collins Jr. (d. 2010), and the grandson of Florida's 33<sup>rd</sup> Governor, LeRoy Collins. Mr. Collins is a director of The Leroy Collins Legacy Group, Inc. He is also vice president of the National Cyber Institute, Inc. in Tampa, Florida and vice president of Florida Pro Musica, Inc., also in Tampa. Mr. Collins was an Airborne Ranger and paratrooper with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment in Ft. Lewis, Washington. He received a B.A. in government and foreign affairs from the University of Virginia. Mr. Collins and his wife, Mary Ellen Norton Collins, live in Tampa.

**Academy Legacy Namesake: Governor Thomas LeRoy Collins** (March 10, 1909 to March 12, 1991) was born and raised in Tallahassee, Florida and served as the 33<sup>rd</sup> governor of Florida.

In 1954 Mr. Collins ran for the unexpired two-year term of Florida Governor Dan McCarthy, who died while in office. Mr. Collins ran again and was elected to a full four-year term in 1956. During his time in office Mr. Collins focused on racial integration of the state's public institutions and promoted equal treatment of all races by both public and private interests. In addition to his activities promoting racial harmony, Mr. Collins was also known for strengthening the state's education system, bringing about positive change in health care, and for his efforts to bring technology industries to the state.

Mr. Collins earned a business degree from the Eastman Business College in Poughkeepsie, New York, and a law degree from the Cumberland School of Law in Lebanon, Tennessee. In 1932 he married Mary Call Darby, great-granddaughter of Richard K. Call, a two-time territorial governor of Florida.

Mr. Collins first held public office in 1934 when he was elected Leon County's representative to the Florida House of Representatives. He served in the Florida House until 1940 when he was elected to the Florida Senate. In 1942 he resigned from the Senate to join the United States Navy and served on active duty from 1942 to 1946. In 1946 he was again elected to the Florida Senate and re-elected in 1950, serving until 1954 when he ran for governor. Mr. Collins' public papers are held by the University of South Florida Libraries Special Collections Department in Tampa.

**Academy:**

By naming the LeRoy Collins Public Ethics Academy, the College plans to promote good government ethics, ongoing research, and an ongoing commitment to the stated mission of FAU's Public Ethics Academy (PEA). The mission of the PEA is to promote high ethical standards in public service, seek to increase understanding of local government and how it functions, provide information and research to stimulate more informed policymaking, and nurture local officials for effective governing. The PEA has established a solid reputation as a leader in public ethics, education, and research. By naming the academy, the Donor, the Public Ethics Academy, the College of Design and Social Inquiry, and the University hope to expand the Academy's role throughout South Florida and perpetuate the legacy of LeRoy Collins through continued promotion of good government ethics, ongoing research, and continued engagement activities that will be conducted through the LeRoy Collins Public Ethics Academy. By naming the Academy and by providing scholarship support that nurtures young, ethical, leaders, the academy and recipients of the LeRoy Collins Public Ethics Student Scholarships will continue to have a positive impact on public policy in Florida through the work of the Academy bearing the illustrious name of the former Florida Governor.

## **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The estimated cost of signage and installation is a maximum of \$400.00 for design and execution of the signage for the named asset.

## **IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/DATE**

Upon completion of the renovations to the Phyllis and Harvey Sandler School of Social Work–  
TBD.

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**Presented by: Danita D. Nias**

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