

December 3, 2025

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Dr. Radenka Maric 

RE: Naming Recommendation for the Carolyn Ladd Widmer and Family Dean's Office Suite in the Elisabeth DeLuca School of Nursing

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board of Trustees authorizes the naming of the fifth-floor Dean's Office Suite in the new DeLuca School of Nursing building the "Carolyn Ladd Widmer and Family Dean's Office Suite."

**BACKGROUND:**

The Dean's Office Suite is planned to be a 2076 sq. ft. space on the fifth floor of the new Elisabeth DeLuca School of Nursing's building within DeLuca Hall. The Dean's Office Suite is expected to be a prestigious and functional office space for administrators and academic leaders. With floor-to-ceiling windows and a large conference room, this space is expected to serve as the primary location for developing strategy and fostering collaboration among all members of the nursing community.

Appointed by UConn President Albert N. Jorgensen in 1942, Carolyn Ladd Widmer became the first director and, a year later, the Dean of the School of Nursing. She built and continually revised the curriculum, hired faculty, and worked with hospitals to establish clinical experiences for students. The school graduated its first bachelor's degree cohort in 1947.

When Ms. Widmer retired in 1967, the school had grown from 13 students in 1942 to 483 students. Today, the Elisabeth DeLuca School of Nursing serves over 1,000 students annually and consistently ranks in the top 20% of the over 2,600 nursing schools in the United States.

The Widmer Family gift is consistent with the University's *Named Gift Guidelines*.

On November 12, 2025, the Institutional Advancement Committee recommended approval to the full Board.

RESOLUTION RE:  
CAROLYN LADD WIDMER AND FAMILY DEAN'S OFFICE SUITE IN THE  
ELISABETH DELUCA SCHOOL OF NURSING

BE IT RESOLVED, that the University of Connecticut Board of Trustees authorizes the naming of the fifth-floor Dean's Office Suite in the new DeLuca School of Nursing building the "Carolyn Ladd Widmer and Family Dean's Office Suite."

It is hereby certified that the foregoing resolution was duly authorized by the Board of Trustees on December 3, 2025.

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Bryan K. Pollard, Secretary

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Date