

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Building Naming

Action Requested: To name the new Professional Studies and Classroom Building at the University of Michigan-Flint in Honor of William S. White

Background:

In April 1997 the Regents approved construction of a new facility on the Flint campus which will house a number of programs, including the School of Health Professions and Studies, School of Management, a telecommunications complex, the visual arts program, the communications program, an urban health and wellness service clinic, an early childhood development center, classrooms, student computer laboratories, and a multi-media instructional technology center.

Construction of this major facility on the Flint Campus would not have been possible without a generous, \$36.1 million gift of land (\$28 million) and funds (\$8.1 million) from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation. This amount constitutes 57 percent of the total project cost of \$63.5 million.

The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation is a family institution. William S. White is a member of the family who also serves as chairman, president, and chief executive officer of the foundation. Under the leadership of Mr. White for almost 20 years, the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation has been the most generous and consistent benefactor of the University of Michigan-Flint and the City of Flint.

The foundation's beneficial impact on the community derives not only from its financial generosity, but also from the educational and social uses of its endowment. The mission of the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation is "to support efforts that promote a just, equitable, and sustainable society." Its goal in the Flint area is "to foster a well-functioning, connected community that is capable of meeting the economic, social and racial challenges ahead." Through the years, the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation has contributed more than \$70 million to the University of Michigan-Flint. The close relationship between the foundation and the University can be attributed, to a great extent, to the vision and leadership of William S. White.

Within the city of Flint, William S. White has been one of the most prominent and influential civic leaders in the city's history. His leadership has had an extraordinarily beneficial impact on the quality of life of the Flint community, especially through activities that promote educational advancement, cultural enrichment, and the improvement of social conditions and race relations. Nationally, Mr. White has played a major role in advancing the cause of peace and promoting social justice and economic development in the United States and abroad. He was a member of

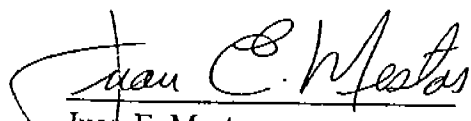
APPROVED BY THE REGENTS ON

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the Carter Center's observer team to the Palestinian elections, of the U.S. presidential delegation to observe the electoral process in Bosnia, and of the U.S. presidential mission to Croatia on economic development. Recently, he was one of the forces behind the creation of President Clinton's 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative to promote after-school educational programs. The Mott Foundation has pledged \$55 million toward that effort.

In recognition of the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation's generous contributions to the University of Michigan-Flint, especially the donations that made possible the construction of this new building, and in recognition of William S. White's leadership of the foundation and of his merits as a civic leader and promoter of education, peace, and social justice, we recommend that the Regents formally designate the Professional Studies and Classroom Building as the William S. White Building.

Recommended by:



Juan E. Mestas
Chancellor

Recommendation endorsed by:



Lee C. Bollinger
President

April 2000