


October 25, 2023

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees
FROM: Dr. Radenka Maric 
RE: Establishment of the Vergnano Endowed Chair for Inclusion

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees establish the “Vergnano Endowed Chair for Inclusion” in the College of Engineering.

BACKGROUND:

Mark and Betsy (Reddington) Vergnano, alumni of the Colleges of Engineering and Liberal Arts and Sciences, respectively, are longtime supporters of UConn with a focus on college affordability and a passion for promoting greater diversity and inclusion. In 2021, the Vergnanos donated a gift focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion, leading to the establishment of the Vergnano Institute for Inclusion in the College of Engineering.

The Vergnanos recently donated an additional gift, consistent with the University’s *Named Gift Guidelines*, to establish a chair within the Vergnanos Institute for Inclusion. The appointed faculty member will serve as the Director of the Institute, subject to Board approval. The incumbent will be a faculty member who has a consistent record of demonstrating leadership and fostering excellence towards inclusive instruction, research, and outreach within the College’s academic community.

The endowment will support funding the Chair; expenses related to the Institute’s programming, including undergraduate and graduate student scholarships; conferences and professional development activities for the Chair and those sponsored by the Institute and College.

The Institutional Advancement Committee recommended establishment to the full Board at their meeting on October 10, 2023.