



UNIVERSITY OF
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July 11, 2017

To Whom it May Concern:

Dr. Willie E. May is a candidate for President-Elect of the American Chemical Society and I am delighted to indicate enthusiastic support for Dr. May, an accomplished scientist and a gifted leader. I first met Willie just after my husband, a physicist, joined the National Bureau of Standards and both he and Willie were bench scientists. During his 45 year career, Willie rose to the very top as Director of what by then had become the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and he also served as the Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology. During his time in these leadership positions, Willie led efforts in technological innovation, advanced manufacturing, forensic science, climate assessment, disaster resilience, and cybersecurity. Willie proved to be highly successful in achieving significant accomplishments in these critical areas of research and development.

As Chairman of the Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology (VCAT), advisory to the Director of NIST, I have personally witnessed Willie's strong capabilities as NIST Director and seen his unwavering support of scientific research and his leadership in addressing the most pressing challenges facing our nation, not the least of which is cybersecurity. Willie is clearly a seasoned and experienced executive leader and he has been, and continues to be, focused on results and successful outcomes. He is firm and decisive, but also friendly and personable. In my opinion, Willie May has all of the qualifications one would wish in the President-Elect of the American Chemical Society, including knowledge, experience, energy, and congeniality. Having served as Director of the National Science Foundation, I have worked with many government executives and consider Willie E. May clearly to be among the very best. Willie will bring great credit and success to the American Chemical Society and will prove to be a leader of which all members can be very proud.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rita R. Colwell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Rita R. Colwell

Distinguished University Professor
University of Maryland College Park and
Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health
Former Director of the National Science Foundation