



LEHIGH UNIVERSITY
College of Business, Department of Accounting
Memorial Resolution in Remembrance of Professor Karen Collins
October 6, 2023

It is with great sadness that I enter this memorial resolution on behalf of the Department of Accounting, the College of Business, and the entire Lehigh community for our esteemed colleague, Professor Karen M. Collins, who passed away on September 1, 2023 at Kindred Hospital in Havertown, PA.

Karen earned her Ph.D. at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in 1988, with concentrations in Accounting and Organizational Behavior and Psychology. She received her M.B.A. (1984) and B.S. in Business Administration (1976) from Salisbury State University. She was also a CPA with a wealth of public accounting and business experience. Karen taught accounting at Salisbury State University and Radford University until 1990, when she joined Lehigh to teach Business and Financial Accounting.

Karen's research focused on the behavioral dimensions of public accounting practice, with an emphasis on quality-of-life issues, upward mobility of women in accounting, and diversity. In many ways, Karen's interdisciplinary work on gender, stress, work-family conflict, and job satisfaction in accounting was ahead of its time.

Karen invested tremendous effort in developing, and directing for many years, the *Introduction to Business* course taken by all first-year business students at Lehigh. Students loved the course and cherished Karen's innovative teaching style. Developing that course laid the foundation for Karen's book *Exploring Business*, honored by the Middle Atlantic Association of Colleges of Business Administration with the prestigious *Innovation in Teaching Award*. Karen's passion for teaching was recognized with numerous other awards, including among others the *Stabler Award* (for mastery of one's field and superior ability in communicating it to others), the *Deming Lewis Faculty Award* (for having the most significant influence on the educational experience of the 10-year reunion class), the *Andersen Consulting Faculty Fellowship for Excellence in Teaching*, and the *Coopers & Lybrand Excellence in Teaching and Learning Award* and the *Coopers & Lybrand Faculty Internship Award*.

Karen was a wonderful and kind colleague who strove for equity in all things and looked for ways to mentor junior faculty. She often used her delightfully deadpan humor to defuse her colleagues' stress. Upon retiring from Lehigh, Karen's parting guidance to us was: "As a member

of Lehigh's community, follow the advice of former President Peter Likins and 'above all, love the students.'"

Karen is survived by her loving husband of 57 years, Bill, her son Don and his wife Courtney, her son Mark and his wife Tara, her brothers Jack, Mick, and Bob, as well as her beloved grandchildren Jayden, Jack, Rowan, Brooke, and Ashton, whom Karen called "my sunshine."

Chair Gunter, I move that this memorial resolution¹ be made a permanent part of the Lehigh University faculty record by being included in the minutes of this Faculty Senate meeting, and that copies be sent to Karen's husband Bill and her sons Don and Mark.

Respectfully submitted,
Marietta Peytcheva, Chair of the Department of Accounting

¹ Material for this resolution was adapted from Karen's obituary, remarks at the 2012 Lehigh Appreciation Dinner, and Karen's textbook, *Exploring Business*.