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Gene Cochrane Receives Order of the Long Leaf Pine

CHARLOTTE, NC – Gene Cochrane, president of The Duke Endowment, has received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, one of North Carolina’s highest civilian honors.

Cochrane is retiring on July 1. After joining the Endowment in 1980, he directed the Health Care program area from 1991 to 2002 and Higher Education from 2005 to 2012. He has served as president since 2005.

A native of Charlotte, he began his career in health care administration at the former Charlotte Memorial Hospital.

The Order of the Long Leaf Pine is presented to citizens for exemplary service to the State of North Carolina.

During Cochrane’s early leadership at the Endowment, the foundation shifted its focus from funding mostly capital projects to supporting more programmatic efforts. More recently, he helped elevate the importance of evaluation in the Endowment’s work and bolstered communications to share lessons learned. In 2014, he led the Endowment through the significant milestone of moving into its first stand-alone headquarters on East Morehead Street in Charlotte. The new building is LEED Gold certified and features meeting space for Endowment grantees.

The Duke Endowment, a private foundation based in Charlotte, was established in 1924 by N.C. industrialist and philanthropist James B. Duke. Through its four program areas – child care, health care, higher education and rural churches – it distributes more than \$100 million in grants annually to organizations in North Carolina and South Carolina. The Endowment’s founder is the same Duke behind Duke University and Duke Energy, but they are all separate organizations.