



## Iota Sigma Pi

National Honor Society for Women in Chemistry

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Iota Sigma Pi Gives 2023 Centennial Award to Dr. Michelle L. Kovarik of Trinity College**

*Iota Sigma Pi, the National Organization for Women in Chemistry, has selected Dr. Michelle Kovarik, Professor of Trinity College (Hartford, CT), to receive the 2023 Centennial Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching.*

Dr. Kovarik obtained her B.S. in Chemistry from Saint Louis University (St. Louis, MO) and PhD in Analytical Chemistry from Indiana University (Bloomington, IN). She is currently an Associate Professor of Chemistry and Co-Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning at Trinity College (Hartford, CT). She has been invited to participate in the organization's Triennial Convention in 2023.



From the early days of her career, Dr. Kovarik has been very active in promoting active learning in undergraduate chemistry education. She has directly engaged students in the learning process rather than practicing traditional classroom lecturing and standard protocol-following laboratory work. She is using a number of innovative approaches that optimize student's learning experience, such as team work, designing and performing the experiments with following data interpretation, using scientific literature, and actively involving every student. She has modified laboratory courses to include working with the most modern instrumentation. It is clear from the letters of support that she creates a unique environment of productive teacher – student collaboration.

Dr. Kovarik has also established an externally funded research program at Trinity College that allows undergraduate students perform original research and co-author publications. To date, she has mentored 27 undergraduate students, 13 of them have been able to publish their projects in peer-reviewed scientific journals and many were able to present posters or talks at meetings on international, national, and regional levels.

Dr. Kovarik has been very active in promoting active learning on a national scale. She is a Chair of American Chemical Society (ACS) Division of Analytical Chemistry Education Committee and an author of numerous articles on the subject of undergraduate teaching in journals such as *Journal of Chemical Education* and *Analytical and Bioanalytical Chemistry*. She has also given a number of invited lectures on chemistry education, including several at National Meetings of

ACS.

Her students comment that they felt her strong commitment to their success. They see that Dr. Kovarik prioritizes their learning and mastering of real-life scientific skills. They wrote about her ability to create a calm, encouraging, and yet challenging atmosphere in the classroom and about her generosity to meet for extra time with anyone needing more help. They all say that Dr. Kovarik's classes have made a major impact on them professionally.

**IOTA SIGMA PI** is the National Honor Society for Women in Chemistry. Its major objectives are *to promote interest in chemistry among women students, to foster mutual advancement in academic, business, and social life; and to stimulate personal accomplishment in chemical fields.* IOTA SIGMA PI serves to promote the advancement of women in chemistry by granting recognition to women who have demonstrated superior scholastic achievement and high professional competence by election into IOTA SIGMA PI. [www.iotasigmapi.info](http://www.iotasigmapi.info)

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