



Iota Sigma Pi

National Honor Society for Women in Chemistry

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Iota Sigma Pi Gives 2021 Centennial Award to Dr. Maria Schroeder
of US Naval Academy**

Iota Sigma Pi, the National Organization for Women in Chemistry, has selected Dr. Maria Schroeder, Professor at the US Naval Academy, to receive the 2021 Centennial Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching. Dr. Schroeder obtained her B.S. in Chemistry and Mathematics from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor and PhD in Analytical Chemistry from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is currently Professor of Chemistry at the US Naval Academy. She has been invited to participate in the organization's Triennial Convention in 2023.



Dr. Schroeder is a highly talented and accomplished educator with over 25 years of experience. She was awarded the E. Emmet Reid Award in Chemistry Teaching at Small Colleges (ACS) and the Civilian Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching at the US Naval Academy, the institution's highest award. She teaches a wide variety of courses starting from General Chemistry to upper-level courses in the Academy's ACS-accredited Chemistry major program. Her nominating letter states "Prof. Maria Schroeder is a truly outstanding teacher, scholar, and supporter of education in the chemical sciences. She has a direct and positive impact on her students through her dedication to their learning and their development".

Dr. Schroeder has also been heavily involved in curriculum development and is always in search of better and more efficient ways to teach. She played a vital role in developing the new Integrated Laboratory curriculum for chemistry majors which enabled students to become more engaged in undergraduate research. This work resulted in two Journal of Chemical Education publications and a chapter in an ACS Symposium Series book. She has also participated in a pilot study of an Atoms First curriculum and is currently involved in evaluating the use of Clickers (interactive technology that facilitates student's self-assessment) in freshman chemistry.

Dr. Schroeder is strongly committed to undergraduate research as a basis of project-based learning. She has successfully mentored over 30 students and since 2012 she has served as Associate Director of Midshipman Research (ADMR) and has managed all research programs at the Naval Academy.

The most telling are her student's support letters that demonstrate the strong impact she makes on them and their learning of chemistry. As one letter states "The results of Professor Schroder's guidance are unmatched and speak for themselves. I, a student who had not taken a single Chemistry class for four years, managed to turn chemistry from a forgotten remnant of the past into a strength...It does not surprise me to see that all my company mates who had the privilege of being in Professor Schroeder's class scored the highest marks among our entire company".

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

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