

Select Career Accomplishments and National & State of Iowa Professional Honors of John W. Colloton – 2020

- John W. Colloton has served the U. of I. in a distinguished fashion for more than three-quarters of a century, after earning a graduate degree at the U. of I. in 1957.
- His multiple and impressive contributions to the University have been recognized in many diverse and profound ways by the U. of I. This includes the honorary naming in 1982 of the \$100 million John W. Colloton Pavilion at the UIHC, upon recommendation of the then U. of I. President, James O. Freedman, and unanimous approval of the Iowa State Board of Regents.
- In 1999 and 2007, two Endowed Academic Chairs, one in Cardiology and one in Public Health, were named in his honor by the U. of I.
- He conceived and led a \$500 million capital replacement program, completed without any state appropriation support, to transform the UIHC from an indigent care institution into a state-of-the-art premiere private patient-oriented teaching hospital operating in support of the University's Health Science Colleges. In that accomplishment, the physical mass of the UIHC was quadrupled while its staff complement increased threefold from 2,500 to 7,500 FTEs. Additionally, a host of new specialty clinical services were established. In this capital program, he was instrumental in securing major capital gifts from the late Roy J. Carver, Sr., John Pappajohn and the late Marvin A. Pomerantz, all of whom became warm lifetime friends, as well as prolific donors to the U. of I., at large, in subsequent years.
- In 1987, John was elected to membership in the prestigious Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences—only the third non-doctoral nominee elected in the history of the Institute.
- In 1988, he was elected Chairman of the Association of American Medical College's as only the second non-physician to hold this top leadership position in the then 112-year history of the Association.
- In 1990, John was the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award of the American Hospital Association, the highest award of the AHA.
- In 1996, he received a Distinguished Alumnus Award from his undergraduate alma mater, Loras College in Dubuque, IA. This was followed in 1999 by the College's conferral on him of an Honorary Doctor of Letters Degree, Honoris Causa.
- In 1998, he received a University of Iowa Distinguished Alumni Award in Achievement.
- From 1970 through 1998, his counsel was highly sought on the national scene, leading to longstanding service on policy and advisory boards at the Universities of Pennsylvania, Duke, Yale, Johns Hopkins and Michigan.
- In 2002, he received the Horatio Alger Award for "Distinguished Americans" from the Horatio Alger Association in Washington, DC.
- In 2003, he was inducted into the Healthcare Hall of Fame based in Chicago & at the nation's first hospital, the Pennsylvania Hospital.
- Beyond meeting his responsibilities on the U. of I. campus, from 1974 to 2012, he carried the "U. of I. flag" while serving on 32 commissions of the U.S. government, national foundations, corporate boards of directors and other governing bodies in rendering 209 years of Board service to these entities. Included in this service was 14 years on the Board of Baxter International, Inc. and 35 years on the Board of Wellmark, Inc.
- During his U. of I. career, he was a keynoter and participant in health educational conferences in the countries of Japan, China, South Korea, Egypt, Australia and New Zealand, among others.
- Early in his career (1979), he was the recipient of the John F. Sanford Award of the Iowa State Medical Society for "leadership in development of innovative programs at UIHC and strengthening relations between the UIHC and the physicians of Iowa."
- In 1979, he was also elected Chairman of the National Council of Teaching Hospitals – an organization of the nation's 400 largest and most prestigious teaching hospitals.
- In 1994, he received the Iowa Hospital Association's F.P.G. Lattner's Award "in recognition of his vision, foresight, and contributions to Iowa by his leadership in health care education, research, patient care and public policy through four decades of service."
- In 1995, he received the American College of Health Care Executive's Senior-Level Healthcare Executive Regents Award.
- In appreciation to the U. of I. and Loras College for the instrumental role that each played in the lives of the Colloton family, John and his spouse, Mary Ann, contributed more than \$1.7 million to the U. of I. for use by the U. of I. Library; the School of Religion in the College of Liberal Arts; Hancher Auditorium; the Women's Intercollegiate Athletic Program; the College of Public Health; the Capital Campaign for the Medical Education and Research Facility of the College of Medicine; the Stead Family Children's Hospital at the UIHC; the Men's Intercollegiate Football Program; the Men's and Women's Intercollegiate Basketball Programs; the Hawkeye Intercollegiate Wrestling Program; and the Helen K. Rossi Volunteer Guest House at the UIHC, among others. They have also contributed \$550,000 to Loras College.
- In 2008, the Board of Directors of Wellmark, Inc. established "The John W. Colloton Board Room" in the Company's new \$300 million headquarters building in Des Moines. JWC had served on the Board for 35 years, including time as Chairman & as Lead Director.
- In 2010, he was elected to membership in Delta Omega Honorary Society in Public Health for having "attained meritorious national distinction in the field of public health."
- In 2013, the University of Iowa conferred an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters Degree on Colloton as "testimony to your distinguished career and significant contributions to the UIHC and the College of Public Health and steadfast professional and personal support of the University."
- In 2016, he was selected to receive the Hancher-Finkbine Alumni Medallion, one of the U. of I.'s highest honors. It is awarded to those who "exemplify learning, leadership and loyalty."
- The above listing does not cover the influential efforts of John in providing Iowa health system counsel to several Iowa Governors and other state officials and the seminal work he did in preserving full state appropriation support for the UIHC upon the inception of Medicare and Medicaid; in formulating the Iowa Certificate of Need legislation to protect the education and research missions of the U. of I.; and in conceiving and securing legislative and court-approved bonding authority for the UIHC.
- Finally, during his twenty-three year tenure as Director of the UIHC, he recruited an outstanding executive staff of some 21 members who had an average tenure of 24 years at the UIHC. Each was expert in his/her sector of hospital management and each was a key player on the Colloton Team and in its collective accomplishments. Ahead of its time, fully one-third of this team was composed of women members.
- The late Dr. Robert G. Petersdorf, one of the giants of American academic medicine, in 1996 crystallized John W. Colloton's career accomplishments with the following words:
"Colloton was arguably the most effective hospital chief executive of his era. A brilliant administrator, he said grace over a phased building project (none of it at state expense), which left the UIHC with one of the best physical plants in the country. He was also a superb organizer, fundraiser, and politician, and an articulate spokesman for academic medicine."
 Dr. Petersdorf, who served as Professor and Head of Internal Medicine at the University of Washington, as Dean of Medicine at UC San Diego, and President of the Association of American Medical Colleges, made his statement as the leader of our nation's 400 teaching hospitals and 134 medical schools.