



## Endowed Professorships Directory

---

➤ **BB&T Distinguished Professorship in Free Enterprise**

➤ **The Elizabeth A. and Jack A. Conner Professorship of Nursing**

The individual selected to hold this honored professorship title will have demonstrated excellence in research and scholarly activities, published widely, and shown a commitment to using his/her own achievements to give FGCU students the most stimulating and up-to-date education available in their fields. The Elizabeth A. and Jack A. Conner Professorship of Nursing will bring prominence to Florida Gulf Coast University through teaching excellence.

➤ **The Dr. Edith Potter Deats Professorship in Nursing**

Dr. Edith Potter Deats, a physician and scholar, established this professorship to support the teaching, scholarship and activities of an outstanding scholar/teacher in nursing.

➤ **The W. Thomas Howard Endowed Professorship in Business**

Supported by the family and friends of the late W. Thomas Howard, a business and civic leader who is credited with being a major force in bringing FGCU to Fort Myers. Special lecture series and programs related to business and industry are among the activities provided by this professorship.

➤ **Myra & Van Williams Distinguished Professorship in Music**

Dr. Myra Williams knows first-hand what it takes to become an accomplished pianist. As a teenager, she devoted long hours to mastering the instrument. Her talent and hard work won her a piano solo with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra.

Although she pursued a career in science rather than music, becoming a successful executive in the pharmaceutical industry, she remains dedicated to the piano and music in general, serving as a board member for the Naples Music Club.

Her husband, Dr. Van Zandt Williams, Jr., spent more than two decades as vice president of development for Princeton University.

Their combined passions for music and higher education led them to establish an endowed professorship in music. The title of Myra & Van Williams Distinguished Professor in Music will be conferred upon a music professor who has an exceptional record of achievement in such areas as teaching, performance, scholarship, and professional service. The goal is to nurture the already strong spirit of collaboration between the Bower School of Music and local communities.