Phyllis M. Taylor, a member of the Board of Tulane, an alumna of the Tulane Law School and chairman and president of the Patrick F. Taylor Foundation, has committed $5 million for the funding of a Presidential Chair. (Photo courtesy of Phyllis Taylor)

Tulane University has received a $5 million commitment for the funding of a Presidential Chair from the Patrick F. Taylor Foundation. Foundation chairman and president, Phyllis M. Taylor, is a member of the Board of Tulane and a graduate of Tulane Law School.

Tulane will establish the Phyllis M. Taylor Presidential Chair Endowed Fund, which will be used to support a chair in an interdisciplinary area of academic study to be determined by Tulane in consultation with Taylor. The grant will fund the salary and other expenses directly associated with
The purpose of the Presidential Chairs is to attract some of the world’s most-renowned faculty members in areas such as biomedicine, coastal restoration, global health and fields not yet explored. These faculty members will embark on a pursuit of teaching and research that crosses multiple disciplines and transforms the world.

Fitts plans to establish many such professorships and has designated this as a campaign priority. These pre-eminent faculty will be hired as university-wide professors with joint appointments between schools to research and teach at the intersection of different subjects.

Taylor’s late husband, Patrick (Pat) Taylor, was a member of the Tulane College Dean’s Advisory Council. Taylor succeeded her husband as chairman and chief executive officer of Taylor Energy Company LLC, a privately-owned independent energy company.

In 2018, in honor of New Orleans’ tricentennial, she was named one of The Times-Picayune’s “300 for 300” highlighting 300 of the most significant people in New Orleans’ 300-year history.