

For Immediate Release

CONTACT: Liz Sullivan, Public Relations Manager
617-521-2369 elizabeth.sullivan2@simmons.edu

Simmons College Professor Named to MA STEM Advisory Council

Baker-Polito Administration Appoints Dr. Roecklein-Canfield to STEM Leadership Group

BOSTON (April 12, 2017) – Jennifer Roecklein-Canfield, Professor and Department Chair of Chemistry and Physics at Simmons College, and a leader in promoting STEM education among young women, was appointed to the Massachusetts STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) Advisory Council recently by Governor Charlie Baker and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito.

Dr. Roecklein-Canfield was appointed to the STEM Advisory Council by Lt. Governor Polito, who serves as the advisory council's co-chair, following her visit to Simmons' campus in December 2016. Lt. Governor Polito toured Simmons' science facilities, met with faculty and students, and learned more about the school's efforts to engage women in STEM learning and careers.

"It is an honor to be named to the Massachusetts STEM Advisory Council," said Dr. Roecklein-Canfield. "I look forward to joining my colleagues in academia as well as other talented individuals from the public and private sectors to work on our shared goal of increasing access to high-quality STEM learning opportunities for students across the Commonwealth. As a representative of Simmons College, I believe I bring a special passion and commitment to ensuring that girls and young women who pursue STEM careers are fully prepared to meet the needs of the 21st Century workforce."

Established by M.G.L. Chapter 6, Section 218, the Massachusetts STEM Advisory Council is comprised of individuals from academia, business, and government who seek to expand access to high-quality STEM education for students across the Commonwealth. Under the leadership of the Baker-Polito Administration, the council has developed four priority areas: expanding work-based learning opportunities in STEM fields; developing and implementing college pathways; increasing access to high quality computer science and engineering education; and strengthening and aligning the work of regional STEM networks.

"STEM industries continue to grow rapidly across the Commonwealth and help strengthen our nation-leading innovation economy," said Governor Baker. "In order for Massachusetts to continue capitalizing in STEM, it's important we continue to expose our students to these industries and I look forward to the work the advisory council will take on this year."

"I am excited to begin a new term of the STEM Advisory Council alongside my fellow co-chairs, returning members and new additions, as we set out to continue strengthening STEM education for all students," said STEM Advisory Council Co-Chair and Lt. Governor Polito. "Massachusetts' STEM economy is strong and growing, and the council is dedicated to continuing our work to train

students in these important fields.”

Dr. Roecklein-Canfield teaches biochemistry, immunobiology, and a class on HIV/AIDS at the interface of science and society. She also teaches an honors community about the human microbiome. For the past 20 years, Dr. Canfield has been an active virologist mentoring more than 25 undergraduate women in her laboratory.

Dr. Roecklein-Canfield’s innovative teaching and research program have been nationally recognized by many professional organizations, and funded by numerous grants. She is also active in several groups working to encourage young women to consider STEM careers including the Women in Cell Biology Committee of the American Society for Cell Biologists, which focuses on equity and fairness in the careers of young women cell biologists. She is a member of the steering committee for a National Science Foundation (NSF) funded project to generate consistent standards of Undergraduate Biochemistry education. She is also the chair of the steering committee for the Massachusetts collaborative for the Million Women Mentors Initiative, a national campaign to recruit a million mentors for young girls and women in STEM over the next four years. As the Southern New England Team Leader for the National Girls Collaborative Project, Dr. Roecklein-Canfield is working to bring together organizations around the U.S. that are committed to informing girls about STEM opportunities.

Dr. Roecklein-Canfield is one of 29 members appointed or reappointed to the advisory council.

Simmons College (www.simmons.edu) is a nationally recognized private university located in the heart of Boston, and is the preeminent authority on women's leadership. Founded in 1899, Simmons is the only undergraduate women’s college in Boston, and maintains a history of visionary thinking and a focus on social responsibility. The college offers world-class coeducational graduate programs in nursing and health sciences, including physical therapy and nutrition; liberal arts; education; behavior analysis; library and information science; management; and social work. Follow Simmons on Twitter at [@SimmonsCollege](https://twitter.com/SimmonsCollege) and [@SimmonsNews](https://twitter.com/SimmonsNews).