O’Leary spent her career at the University of Maryland, College Park, where she is now Distinguished University Professor Emerita. She also served for many decades as a consulting mathematician for the National Institute of Standards and Technology. O’Leary’s interests include computational linear algebra and biology, optimization, and image processing, and her numerous publications include two books. She has supervised 25 PhD students, 5 of them women. She was editor-in-chief of the *SIAM Journal on Matrix Analysis and Applications* (2009–2015). O’Leary was named an ACM Fellow and an ACM Distinguished Scientist (2006), and a SIAM Fellow (2009). She has also been an AWM-SIAM Sonia Kovalevsky Lecturer (2008).

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