

March 5-7, 2008

ITEM 138-2706-R0308

**Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Special Education Upon Professor Linda Christensen; Montana State University Billings**

**THAT:**

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Professor Linda Christensen from the faculty of Montana State University Billings, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for her years of dedicated and valued service to the University, the College of Education, and the State of Montana by recommending that the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon her by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

**EXPLANATION:**

Upon her retirement on May 10, 2008, the faculty of the College of Education has unanimously requested emeritus status for Professor Linda Christensen. Professor Linda Christensen has completed a distinguished teaching career of thirty years, including twenty-nine years at Montana State University Billings, formerly Eastern Montana College, serving as an Associate and a Full Professor. She has published numerous articles, book chapters, and presented papers in the fields of Teacher Education, Rural Special Education, and Psychological Aspects of Chronic Illness at scholarly conferences held in Montana and throughout the United States. Professor Linda Christensen is an active member of extensive professional organizations, including the Council for Children with Behavior Disorders, Council for Exceptional Children, Montana Council for Comprehensive System of Personnel Development, and the Montana Higher Education Consortium.

Professor Linda Christensen received her B. A. degree in psychology and elementary education from Macalester College, St. Paul, Minnesota, her M.Ed. in special education – emotional disturbance from the University of Arizona, and her Ph.D. in special education – teacher training from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. She has been a superb educator, researcher, and service provider to the University, the College of Education, and the special education community, receiving the Faculty Achievement Award for Outstanding Community Service, the Shannon Weatherly Faculty Scholarship Award, and the Outstanding Educator Award from the Council for Exceptional Children. Professor Christensen has also received recognition through

grants and fellowships for the U.S. Department of Education, Special Education and Reading, the Billings Clinic Foundation, EMC Foundation, and the Yellowstone County AIDS Coalition. She has developed, presented and advocated for the “Kids on the Block – Teaching Students without Disabilities about Disabilities” program.

Professor Christensen has served Montana State University Billings as a Department Chair (two terms), and as a member of numerous committees including Student Scholarship, Teacher Education, Faculty Searches, Academic Standards, Graduate Faculty, and Comprehensive System of Personnel Development. She is highly respected and esteemed by a host of previous and current undergraduate and graduate students, consistently serving students as their professor, academic advisor, and professional mentor.

Professor Linda Christensen has made significant contributions to the students and faculty in the College of Education, to Montana State University Billings, and to the Montana and national special education community. We congratulate her upon her retirement and wish her the very best for the future.