

July 6, 2009

Montana Board of Regents
Office of Commissioner of Higher Education
PO Box 203201
Helena, MT 59620

Re: Naming of the Native American Center in honor of Terry Payne -
Payne Family Native American Center

Dear Members of the Board:

As you know, construction is underway on the new Native American Center on the campus of The University of Montana - Missoula. Located on the southwest corner of the oval, the Native American Center will be the first academic center of its kind in the nation and will provide a place for all those interested to explore and celebrate Indian history, culture, heritage and perspectives. The planning and building of the Native American Center has been a long and arduous task and could not have been possible with the strong support of our lead donor, Terry Payne.

Terry Payne and his wife, Patt, are highly committed to the Native American Center. Terry's history with UM is long and successful. He received a bachelor's degree in business administration from UM in 1963. He is the founder and principal of Terry Payne and Co., Inc., an independent insurance agency established in Missoula in 1972. He is also president and chairman of the company's board, as well as chairman of the Payne Financial Group board. In addition, he is a director of Washington Corporations and numerous other Washington companies, and a director of First Interstate BancSystem, Inc. He has also served on the steering committee for the last two UM Foundation campaigns and is a trustee emeritus for the UM Foundation. Terry has also endowed a UM Presidential Scholarship and the Don McGonigle Memorial Scholarship for students with disabilities at UM's School of Business Administration. He was honored with UM's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2006 and with the 2008 Neil S. Bucklew Presidential Service Award.

Described as a quiet, inspirational hero, Terry has also been instrumental in supporting the Watson Children's Shelter, the Missoula Family YMCA, Missoula Art Museum and many other area institutions. In a nut-shell, Terry is a successful businessman who finds it in his heart to support many area organizations. The University of Montana is extremely lucky to have had his support for many years and for the support in building the Native American Center.

It is therefore our wish, with your approval, to name the new Native American Center on the campus of UM the ***Payne Family Native American Center*** in honor of Terry's contributions. We can think of no other way to express our gratitude and appreciation for the continued support of Terry and Patt Payne.

Careful consideration has been given to the decision of naming the new Native American Center and comes by recommendation of President George Dennison, CAS Dean Chris Comer, the previous Dean, Gerald Fetz and the entire faculty of the Native American Studies Department under the direction of Wade Davies. It is our wish you, as the Board of Regents share in our recognition of Terry Payne and approve our request to bestow this honor upon him.

Your consideration is appreciated. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Durringer
Vice President for Administration & Finance

cc: President George Dennison
Dr. Sheila Stearns, Commissioner of Higher Education