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Professor Emerita of Journalism: Carol Van Valkenburg; The University of Montana–Missoula

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Professor Carol Van Valkenburg from The University of Montana, the faculty of the School of Journalism wish to express their deep appreciation for her years of dedicated and valued service to the University, the School, the State of Montana and the field of journalism education by recommending that the rank of Professor Emerita be conferred upon her by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

EXPLANATION

Professor Van Valkenburg is scheduled to retire from The University of Montana at the conclusion of the Fall 2011 semester. She taught at the School of Journalism for 30 years, during which she also served as the school's acting dean for a year and chaired its Print and Photojournalism Department for more than a decade. Highlights of her career include three decades as faculty adviser to the Montana Kaimin student newspaper, and her nationally recognized teaching in the school's award-winning Native News Honors Project. In 2000, she was nationally recognized in journalism education circles when she received the Freedom Forum's Teacher of the Year award. Her fundraising helped build Don Anderson Hall, which now houses the School of Journalism, and established the school's T. Anthony Pollner Distinguished Professorship. Professor Van Valkenburg was a much sought-after member of campus committees; and presidents and provosts sought her advice on issues ranging from diversity to retention. She is highly regarded within her profession and is in great demand on accreditation teams that enforce standards for journalism education nationally.

We make particular mention of Professor Van Valkenburg's unflagging commitment to diversity. For more than 20 years, she has inspired and led the nation's most successful and sustained effort to promote journalism for and about Native Americans. Since the late 1980s, her annual Native News Honors Project – a senior-level seminar class offered each spring – has illuminated an array of issues crucial to Montana's tribes, ranging from failures to prosecute crimes to inadequate health care and the tangled questions of sovereignty and identity. That work has launched many careers of Native and non-Native journalists across the country, and it revealed the hopes and travails of a largely ignored minority in their midst.

Year after year, the quality of the student journalism produced under Professor Van Valkenburg's tutelage ranked among the nation's best. Student writers and photographers from the Native News course have won dozens of awards and have consistently placed among the top finishers in the annual Hearst Journalism Awards, considered the Pulitzer Prizes of collegiate journalism. Signal honors came in 2005 when the project received the Robert F. Kennedy Award for Excellence in Journalism, and again in 2010, when a Native News story won Hearst's first prize for in-depth reporting.

Beyond the awards, Native News has proved hugely influential for the cause of Native American journalism and diversity education in Montana and beyond. Its success provided a springboard for the School of Journalism's hiring of its first Native American Journalist-in-Residence in 1999, who proceeded to procure

major grants from the Freedom Forum, the Knight Foundation, the Robert C. Maynard Institute for Journalism Education, the Gannett Foundation and others for Reznet, an online news and mentoring project for young Native Americans. Native News and Reznet have served as models for diversity coverage projects at journalism schools throughout the nation, especially in the West.

The world has taken notice as well. In 2011, Professor Van Valkenburg travelled to Australia to present the Native News Project at the UNESCO World Press Freedom Day forum on indigenous voices. Fellow speakers included a First Nations journalist affiliated with the University of British Columbia, who was so impressed with her project that he traveled to Montana to learn more in hopes of launching a similar effort in Canada.

Professor Van Valkenburg's scholarly and service work has had an impact across the campus, across Montana and beyond. Most recently, she expanded her book, "An Alien Place: The Fort Missoula, Montana, Detention Camp 1941-1944" (first published in 1995) for a second edition that was published in April 2009. She gave dozens of talks on the subject of the World War II detention of Japanese and Italian nationals in internment camps. Her article "Axis Nation Detainees and Japanese Enemy Aliens in the West during World War II" was featured in the Spring 2011 issue of Montana: The Magazine of Western History.

She has served high school journalism programs by giving presentations to teachers and judging students' work in high school contests. Among her academic service in recent years, she served on the Davidson Honors College Advisory Board, was a member of the Practical Ethics Center and the University of Montana Press editorial board, and she was co-editor of Montana's Agenda, a public issues newsletter published quarterly by UM and sent to all statewide elected officials and other opinion leaders in the state.

Faculty at the School of Journalism are proud to have served as colleagues with her, and we have been inspired by her passion, dedication and hard work. Her body of work – especially in the classroom – resonates in the careers and service of scores of former students whose eyes she opened and whose hopes she inspired. We are proud to submit her name for consideration as Professor Emerita.