

September 14-15, 2016

ITEM 172-1014-R0916

Request for authorization to confer the title of Professor Emeritus on Rebecca Richards – University of Montana-Missoula

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Professor Rebecca Richards from the University of Montana, the University wishes to express its appreciation for her 21 years of service by requesting that the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon her by the Board of Regents of Higher Education.

EXPLANATION

Dr. Rebecca Richards has a diverse educational background, having earned her B.A. in English in 1970 at the University of Minnesota, her MAT in Education at Reed College, her MSc in Applied Linguistics at the University of Edinburg in Scotland, and her PhD in Sociology at Utah State University. While in graduate school, she taught at the Tampere Language Institute in Tampere, Finland, at Parkrose High School in Portland, Oregon, and at Rock Point School and Navajo Community College, Navajo Nation in Arizona. After completing her PhD, she served as a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Environmental Sciences, Policy, and Management at the University of California, Berkeley and as a Research Resource Scientist in the Department of Agronomy and Range Science at the University of California, Davis. Dr. Richards joined the faculty of the Department of Sociology at the University of Montana-Missoula as an Assistant Professor in 1995. She was promoted to Associate Professor in 1999 and Full Professor in 2005. During her distinguished career of teaching, research, and service, Dr. Richards focused her work primarily in the areas of Environmental/Natural Resource Sociology, Rural Sociology, Rural Development, and the Sociology of Risk and Natural Hazards.

Dr. Richards is a well-respected teacher who holds her students to high standards. In addition to teaching Major Content courses in her areas of expertise, she frequently teaches labor-intensive Sociology Research Methods and Advanced Writing courses. She receives praise from her students for her knowledge of the subject matter and frequently serves on thesis and dissertation committees.

Dr. Richards is widely published researcher in her areas of specialty. She is the recipient of numerous grants funded by the U.S. federal government, several state governments, and the government of Canada. In numerous peer-reviewed journal articles and technical reports, she has reported the results of her research on such topics as the non-timber forest products industry, the animal rights movement, energy deregulation, the impact of environmental pollution, and resilience in response to natural disasters. She has earned a reputation nationally and beyond as a policy analyst on these topics and has frequently been invited to give presentations across the U.S. as well as in Finland, the Czech Republic, and Canada. In recognition of her expertise, she (among other honors) earned a Fulbright Fellowship to teach and do research at the University of Joensuu in Finland and to serve as a Fulbright Senior Specialist at the University of Porto, Portugal.

Dr. Richards has been generous in her service to students, the Sociology Department, the University of Montana, and the field of Sociology. She has chaired or been a member of many important university committees. She was the Associate Editor of *Society and Natural Resources*, and served as a reviewer for many scholarly journals and grant programs.

The University of Montana, the Sociology Department, her students and colleagues will greatly miss Dr. Richards. In recognition of her outstanding career of dedicated service, the Department of Sociology is honored to recommend Professor Rebecca Templin Richards for Emeritus status.

ATTACHMENTS

No attachments