

July 8, 2008

ITEM 140-1502-R0708

Professor Emeritus of General Engineering: Leroy L. Friel, Ph.D., P.E.; Montana Tech of The University of Montana

THAT:

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Professor Leroy Friel from the faculty of Montana Tech of The University of Montana, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for his years of dedicated and valued service to the university, the Department of General Engineering and the State of Montana by recommending that the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon him by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

EXPLANATION:

Dr. Friel spent 32 of his 40 years in engineering education at Montana Tech, teaching a wide variety of subjects while still being actively involved in numerous extracurricular activities. He is a mentor to students, a friend of the faculty and alumni, and a great educator, humanitarian and professional.

Leroy received his B.S.C.E. and M.S.C.E. from West Virginia University in 1962 and 1963, respectively. Ten years later he received the degree of Ph.D. from the Georgia Institute of Technology. He has contributed to engineering education in many ways, from writing chapters for texts to preparing questions for the FE examination.

He is one of the founding fathers of the Engineering Science Department at Montana Tech, now General Engineering, serving as a faculty member and department head while the student population grew from a handful of students to well over 300. He has received many honors including the 2005 Butte Area Engineer of the Year, 2005 ASEE Outstanding Teacher, and the 2007 Montana Tech Outstanding Achievement Award.

In addition to certification as a Professional Engineer in three states, he is associated with ASCE, ASEE, Tau Beta Pi and Chi Epsilon. He helped establish the Tech chapter of Tau Beta Pi, served as an advisor to the Baptist Student Union, chaired the Student Art Loan program, and served on and chaired the Instructional Improvement Committee. Leroy has managed General Engineering's biannual symposium and the department alumni newsletter.

Tech's memorial flagpole installation was possible through his supervision and approval of the student design. Our Lady of the Rockies memorial chapel was designed in part with Leroy's

input.

Lastly, his enjoyment of hunting and fishing travels to Alaska and house building have been an inspiration to his comrades in education.

It is of immense credit to Dr. Friel that Montana Tech students and alumni frequently comment on the wealth of help and advice that he has unselfishly given them. He certainly has the respect and admiration of his fellow faculty in the General Engineering Department as well.

For these and numerous other contributions, the faculty of the Department of General Engineering is pleased to nominate Dr. Leroy L. Friel for the Rank of Professor Emeritus of General Engineering at Montana Tech of The University of Montana.