



October 24, 2008

Montana Board of Regents
Office of Commissioner of Higher Education
Montana University System
46 North Last Chance Gulch
PO Box 203201
Helena, MT 59620-3201

Re: Naming of MSU-Great Falls library honoring Will and Nancy Weaver

Dear Members of the Board:

On occasion, we have an opportunity to recognize those individuals who contribute extraordinarily to the Montana University System, for it is truly the work of exceptional individuals that opens the door to the potential of our students. MSU-Great Falls has been blessed with ardent supporters, none more so than Will and Nancy Weaver. Therefore, it is our wish, with your approval, to name the new MSU-Great Falls' library the ***Will and Nancy Weaver Library***, in honor of their contributions. The following justification details this request in recognition of the Weavers' commitment and devotion to the advancement of the College.

Will and Nancy Weaver have been integral partners in the success of MSU-Great Falls, promoting the future of the institution as retired administrators, donors, and community advocates. Their support has been vital to the overall development of the College as it evolved from a member of the Great Falls Public School District, to a campus of the Montana University System, to an affiliate of Montana State University. Along this path of progress, Will and Nancy have been dedicated supporters of increased access to public higher education, in particular two-year education, throughout the Northcentral Montana region. As the largest private donors to the College's scholarship development, their example and advocacy has inspired others in the community to contribute to the future of higher learning here in Great Falls.

In 2006, they established the High Plains Memorial Scholarship Endowment. The award is in honor of Nancy's mother, Leona Jepsen Peterson, which recognizes area students who demonstrate high academic achievement, financial need, as well as a strong commitment to community service. Through their initial gift establishing this award, and subsequent contributions, this scholarship has become the largest single endowment held by the College. Moreover, this gift has provided the institution a greater opportunity to retain the area's bright and talented students in our home community. To match this financial commitment, Will and Nancy also have invested their time to ensure others understand the importance of contributing to the College. As founding members of the MSU-Great Falls Development Steering Committee, they have harnessed the passion of peers in the community to focus on the advancement of private giving in support of academic programs and student scholarships. However, their involvement in the success of the College has been evident for the last twenty years.



As Registrar and English faculty, Nancy's commitment to student support and advancement was felt inside the classroom and out, as her tenure at the College spanned nearly twenty years. Likewise, as Dean, Will oversaw an unprecedented growth in enrollment. Under his tenure, enrollment grew 152 percent, from 472 students in the 1985 fall semester to 1,193 students in the 2000 fall semester. His and Nancy's continued commitment to financial access by way of further developing student scholarships has been part of the sustained enrollment growth experienced at MSU-Great Falls.

Any college would be so fortunate to have dedicated partners like Will and Nancy Weaver. Their commitment to public higher education has been instrumental in both the development of the institution, as well as in the advancement of so many individual lives that have passed through our halls as students, faculty, and staff. We espouse to honor Will and Nancy's legacy and inspire like greatness in others by having their names grace our campus library.

Our decision to seek this honor for the Weavers was arrived at after careful deliberation, but without any hesitation on behalf of the MSU-Great Falls campus community. It is our wish you, as the Board of Regents, share in our recognition of the Weavers and approve our request to bestow this honor on them.

If I can provide any other information or answer any questions you have prior to your consideration of this request, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached at (406) 771-4310 or jschaffer@msugf.edu.

Sincerely,

Joe Schaffer
Interim Dean/CEO

Cc: Dr. Geoff Gamble, President Montana State University
Dr. Sheila Stearns, Montana Commissioner of Higher Education