

ITEM 146-2704-R0310

Authorization to confer the title of Administrator Emeritus of Administration upon Ms. Jane L. Howell; Montana State University Billings

THAT:

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Jane L. Howell from the Office of Director of Library Services at Montana State University Billings, the MSU Billings Library staff wish to express their deep appreciation for her years of dedicated and valued service to the University by recommending the rank of Administrator Emeritus upon her by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

EXPLANATION:

Jane Howell earned a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from the University of Leeds in 1965, and a Master of Arts in Library Science from the University of Denver in 1974. Her life's work is characterized by service in many types of libraries, early adoption of developing technologies, and maximizing limited resources through collaborative efforts.

Jane came to Eastern Montana College in 1982 as a Business & Public Services Librarian, and became Director of Library & Audiovisual Services in 1990. As Director, she has worked tirelessly to improve access to information and utilize cutting-edge technology tools for faculty and student research. She has made many significant contributions to her profession, serving on the boards of state, regional, and national library associations. She presided over the Montana Library Association from 1994-1995 and served as Montana Chapter Chair for the Association of College & University Libraries and the American Library Association. She has pioneered numerous collaborative efforts, including the establishment of OMNI, a group of eastern Montana libraries sharing an online catalog, the first such venture in the state of Montana. She also helped establish BAHSIC (Billings Area Health Sciences Information Consortium), a cooperative effort between MSU Billings and local and regional medical libraries. Her enthusiasm for and efforts in behalf of the construction of a joint community library, operated by MSU Billings and the City of Billings, has been contagious.

Jane's service to her community has transcended library-related activities. She raised millions of dollars in funds for MSU Billings and scholarships through the annual Wine and Food Festival. She has also spearheaded the University's preparations for accreditation reviews. She has served as President of the Montana Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, and worked collaboratively with the local chapter of the American Association of University Women.

With this recommendation, MSU Billings congratulates Jane Howell on her retirement and thanks her for her 28 years of invaluable service to students, staff, and faculty. Her tireless efforts at providing timely access to important resources have touched many lives.