

March 7-8, 2013

**ITEM 158-1601-R0313**

**Authorization to change the name of Fine Arts Annex to Emerick Art Studio**

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**THAT**

Consistent with Board of Regents Policy 1004.1, Naming of Buildings, the Board of Regents of the Montana University System authorizes The University of Montana Western to change the name of Fine Arts Annex to Emerick Art Studio.

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**EXPLANATION**

This is to honor the lasting contributions and legacy made by Mary Baker and D. I. Emerick to Montana Western. Mary Baker Emerick had a profound influence on the maturation of the art department at Montana Western during her time as a faculty member from 1925-1968.

She received her education from Montana State Normal College, University of Washington, and Teachers College, Columbia University. She helped students develop an Art club with the highest standards and later founded a chapter of Kappa Pi Omicron, a national fine arts honorary fraternity, on campus. This group initiated many art shows, guest speakers, and field trips. Under her care, a student gift shop was started to generate art scholarships.

Upon her retirement, she was awarded Professor of Art Emeritus in appreciation of "her personal interest in students, her encouragement of their potential talents and the teaching, counseling and guidance which she so unselfishly provided."

Her unselfishness was further demonstrated when, upon her death in 1981, trusts totaling over \$700,000 were willed to Montana Western from the Emericks' estate. One was for generous scholarships annually for new and returning art students and the other is designated for books and equipment to advance campus art programs. Today, the art scholarships are the largest and most far reaching on campus. Since 1981, the trusts have grown significantly and leave a legacy to serve Montana Western far into the future. This gift has and will continue to profoundly impact thousands of Montana Western students and the art department.

Professor Baker's commitment to Montana Western and the Bakers' very generous donation warrant a lasting tribute to their legacy.

In bringing this item forward, Montana Western followed UMW Policy 600.1 University Property Naming based on Board of Regents' Policy 1004.1 Naming of Buildings.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

Letter from Roxanne Engellant, UMW Foundation Executive Director