

March 3-4, 2016

ITEM 170-2704-R0316

Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Native American Studies, Montana State University Billings: Dr. Jeffrey M. Sanders

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Professor Sanders from the faculty of Montana State University Billings, the faculty wishes to extend its appreciation for 20 years of dedicated and valued service to the University, the Department of Social Sciences and Cultural Studies, and the State of Montana by recommending that the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon Dr. Jeffrey M. Sanders by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

EXPLANATION

Jeffrey M. Sanders earned his bachelor's degree in biological sciences from Cornell University and his master's degree in secondary education from Western Connecticut State University. He earned his Ph.D. in 1990 in renewable natural resources with a minor in American Indian studies from the University of Arizona. His dissertation was titled "Tribal and National Parks on American Indian Lands."

Dr. Sanders began his teaching career in the K-12 system, teaching middle school and high school for 14 years before he moved on to higher education. He came to Montana State University Billings in 1996 as an Assistant Professor of Native American Studies. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 2003 and to Professor in 2009. In addition, he served as chair of the Department of Social Sciences & Cultural Studies (then the Department of Sociology, Political Science, Native American Studies and Environmental Studies) from 2009 until 2012.

Professor Sanders' academic contributions are many. Not only has he published in refereed journals and books, he has presented his work at well over 60 local, regional and national conferences and has taught courses and programs at numerous higher education institutions around the state. In 2006 he was appointed by the Commissioner of Higher Education to the "Indian Education for All Work Group Montana University System" to plan and implement Indian Education for All by legislative mandate and served in that capacity until 2010. In addition, in 2004, he had the distinct honor of being selected as a Fulbright Travel Fellow to travel with MSU and Tribal College professors to Peru and Guatemala for comparative studies of South American Indigenous people.

In addition to his scholarly work, Dr. Sanders is an unparalleled educator. He cares deeply for his students and devotes much time and energy to teaching pedagogy and student learning. This dedication is reflected in his consistently outstanding student evaluations and in the fact that he has been the recipient of every single faculty excellence award offered at Montana State University Billings. These include the Winston and Helen Cox Fellowship, the Faculty Excellence Award, the Student Opportunity Services Outstanding Faculty Award, the Faculty Award for Exceptional Support of Students with Disabilities, the Advisor Award for Outstanding Contributions to Inter-Tribal Indian Club (twice), Montana

Indian Education Association Special Recognition Award and, most recently, in 2014, he was selected by a student to be the honored faculty member at American Indian Heritage Day Honoring Ceremony.

He has served the university and the larger community through his participation on numerous committees, boards and councils. These include the Institute for Peace Studies at Rocky Mountain College, Humanities Montana, the Quail Roost Foundation (a national philanthropic group), Friends of Yellowstone Public Radio and *Peace Party* (an online multi-cultural comic book featuring American Indians.)

Dr. Sanders has made significant contributions to the students and faculty in the Department of Social Sciences & Cultural Studies, the College of Arts and Sciences, Montana State University Billings and to the Montana community. For these and numerous other contributions, the faculty of the Department of Social Sciences & Cultural Studies is pleased to nominate Professor Dr. Jeffrey M. Sanders for the rank of Professor Emeritus of Native American Studies at Montana State University Billings.

ATTACHMENTS

None