

March 8-9, 2018

ITEM 178-2703-R0318

Request for authorization to confer the title of Professor Emeritus of Educational Theory and Practice upon Dr. Kenneth Miller, Montana State University Billings

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Dr. Kenneth Miller from Montana State University Billings, the Board of Regents wishes to express its appreciation for his service to the University, Montana University System, and the people of the State of Montana.

EXPLANATION

Dr. Kenneth W. Miller earned a B.S. degree in Biology and BSED in Biology in 1975 from South Dakota, Brookings; a M.S. in Natural Science in 1987 from the University of Wyoming; and a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in science education from the University of Wyoming, 1993.

Dr. Miller taught secondary science in Campbell County School district in Wyoming prior to his appointment as assistant professor at Eastern Montana College in 1992, now Montana State University Billings. In 1999 he was appointed as an associate Professor, and in 2006, full professor. Dr. Miller taught at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, including Methods of Teaching Science, Curriculum, Critical Issues in Education, Family Science, Physical Science for Elementary Teachers, and Research in Education courses. He served as Department Chair of Educational Theory and Practice from 2000 to 2005 and again from 2009 to 2017, a role in which he excelled. Dr. Miller has advised hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students in his career. He has continually set a high standard in advising, seeing himself as a mentor who helps the students become autonomous in this process. He is knowledgeable and compassionate with students who need expert advice and mentoring.

Dr. Miller has been a leader in inquiry-based learning in science, and implements said methods in his courses. He has worked at the national, state, and local levels to implement the National Science Education standards and developed courses on the mentoring of new teachers in Math and Science and telecommunications, with a focus on minority students. Dr. Miller's expertise and knowledge of National Science Education standards is highly valued.

As a consequence of Dr. Miller's continual efforts to improve the education of pre-service teachers, he was one of the first faculty members at MSU Billings to teach in an online format. He converted multiple face-to-face courses to the online delivery medium, and acted as a mentor for faculty moving to online formats. With the expertise that he developed as an early adopter, he became not only an example of what was possible in online instruction, but he became a vital resource for colleagues in the College of Education and throughout the MSU Billings campus. He has served MSU Billings in several capacities, including many committees as both a member and chair.

Dr. Miller has earned many honors over the past twenty-six years, most recent highlights include: 2017 Excellent in Education Award, 2015 Pippenger Award for Excellence in Innovation of Undergraduate Education and 2014 Distinguished Alumni Award-College of Education, University of Wyoming 100th Year. Beyond the campus, Dr. Miller has made significant contributions to the profession as a member of over 20 professional organizations. He is well known throughout the community, state, region, and country for his scholarship and service to the profession.

As either the lead or a secondary author, Dr. Miller has published 25 scholarly papers and presented at 64 professional conferences locally, regionally, and nationally. He has been awarded 16 grants, totaling upwards of \$4.3 million. His scholarship activities have focused on technology, math and science integration, and inquiry-based teaching methods.

For these and other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer upon Dr. Kenneth Miller the rank of Professor Emeritus of Educational Theory and Practice at Montana State University Billings.

ATTACHMENTS: None