

May 22-23, 2019

**ITEM 183-1601-R0519**

**Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Environmental Sciences on Dr. Steve Mock, The University of Montana Western**

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**THAT**

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Dr. R. Stephen Mock from the faculty of The University of Montana Western, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for his 28 years of dedicated and valued service to the University and the State of Montana by recommending that the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon him by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

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**EXPLANATION**

R. Stephen Mock served Montana as a public-school teacher in Lima and Clyde Park prior to earning his Ph.D. in analytical chemistry at Montana State University-Bozeman in 1989. After teaching for a year at Gonzaga University, Dr. Mock joined the faculty of the University of Montana Western in 1991. He rose rapidly to the rank of Associate Professor and then Professor. Dr. Mock had a robust research career working Dr. Eric Grimsrud at Montana State University, and ultimately devoted himself to rebuilding the Montana Western campus. He helped create the Environmental Sciences Department, served as chairperson, directed the Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education (FIPSE) grant that launched the innovative Experience One program and was the Dean of Arts and Sciences. He served on numerous committees, worked to create the arts and sciences degree programs and was instrumental in helping Montana Western becoming the first public university in the history of the United States to adopt Experience One, a system of experiential, immersion learning where students take, and faculty teach one class at a time. For his efforts, Dr. Mock received the Montana Ambassadors Mike Malone Educator of the Year award in 2012.

Professor Mock was a very successful and popular teacher at Montana Western. He was well known by students as a passionate and caring educator. He creatively used Experience One to integrate lecture and lab in his chemistry courses and developed several field-based experiences for students in classes like environmental geochemistry, environmental education, environmental field studies, rock climbing, winter camping and more. Dr. Mock had many successful chemistry students over the years, some who went on to be public school science teachers, lab chemists, medical professionals and veterinarians. Over the last few years Dr. Mock provided opportunities for students to travel to Nepal and work with him at the Khumbu Climbing Center near Mt. Everest in Nepal. Dr. Mock put in countless hours managing the chemistry labs and stockroom, jobs typically hired out to technicians on other campuses.

In recent years, Dr. Mock transitioned to non-profit service work as the Director of the Khumbu Climbing Center, which works to improve the safety of Nepali mountain workers at a school located near Mt. Everest In Nepal. He also serves as the President of the Denali Rescue Volunteers in Alaska. Dr. Mock's passion for climbing and outdoor education exposed countless Montana Western students to mountain recreation and changed the lives of many who now share his passion. The Environmental Sciences Department could not be more proud to nominate Professor Mock for emeritus status.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

None.