

May 20, 2020

ITEM 188-2003-R0520

Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Remote Sensing Upon Rick Lawrence; Montana State University

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Rick Lawrence from the faculty of Montana State University, the Board of Regents wishes to express its appreciation for his service to the University, the Montana University System, and the people of Montana.

EXPLANATION

Dr. Rick Lawrence received his B.A. from Claremont Men's College, his J.D. from Columbia University, and his M.S. and Ph.D. from Oregon State University. He started at MSU as an assistant professor in 1998. During his 22 years at MSU, Dr. Rick Lawrence has made significant and lasting contributions in teaching, research, and service.

As Director of the Spatial Sciences Center, Rick has had a stellar research career at Montana State University, bringing in more than \$10 million of research funding as a PI or Co-PI, and authoring over 80 peer-reviewed publications. Throughout much of his career, Rick has leveraged his significant research accomplishments to tirelessly advocate for resources and capacity for the state of Montana through the StateView Program, part of the AmericaView Program dedicated to advancing the use of remote sensing data and technology. Rick is widely recognized as a leading authority in remote sensing and geospatial sciences, particularly in the field of image classification methods. Rick's expertise in remote sensing and geospatial analysis translates directly to his success as an instructor and mentor of dozens of students annually. Over the course of his career, he has developed and taught 15 different courses, including three upper division/graduate courses - GPHY 426: Remote Sensing and Digital Image Processing; GPHY 429R/LRES 525: Applied Remote Sensing; and LRES 535: Techniques of Spatial Analysis. Part of what makes Rick's career as a scholar remarkable is that he came to academia mid-career, after a successful career in the legal profession. He returned to graduate school as a non-traditional student and made quick work of his M.S. and Ph.D. at Oregon State University. He immediately landed a job at Montana State University in 1998 as an assistant professor and swiftly moved up the ranks, attaining full professor in 2009. In short, Rick came to academia because of his passion for research, teaching, and service – and it shows in his everyday work and life. He truly loved the work that he did, and he loved sharing this passion with his students.

Dr. Rick Lawrence has served the College of Agriculture, Montana Agricultural Experiment Station, MSU and the State of Montana with innovation and distinction.

For these and other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer on Dr. Rick Lawrence the rank of Professor Emeritus of Remote Sensing at Montana State University and wishes him well for many years in the future.

ATTACHMENTS

None.