

May 26-27, 2021

ITEM 194-1015-R0521

Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus on Norma Nickerson, University of Montana – Missoula

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Norma Nickerson from the faculty of the University of Montana, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for her 26 years of service to the University and the State of Montana by recommending that the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon her by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

EXPLANATION

Dr. Norma Nickerson earned her Ph.D. at University of Utah and joined The University of Montana in 1995. Professor Nickerson rose rapidly to the rank of Associate Professor and then Professor. She served as the Director of the Institute on Tourism and Recreation Research from 1995 to 2021.

Professor Nickerson taught undergraduate and graduate courses in the Parks, Tourism, and Recreation Management Program. She was instrumental in providing tourism economic data to decision makers, connecting with local communities to help them plan for tourism and recreation, and building a coalition of support for tourism in Montana. Her research carried over into her graduate mentorship where she provided countless opportunities for graduate training. This is further evidenced by Professor Nickerson chairing 25 graduate student theses and dissertations at University of Montana.

Professor Nickerson was a highly productive researcher who published 25 refereed journal articles, three books, 10 book chapters, 31 articles in the Montana Business Quarterly, and more than 225 Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research reports. Professor Nickerson won the Journal of Travel Research Outstanding Article of the Year and the International Travel and Tourism Research Association Best Illustrated Paper Award. She was extremely dedicated to communicating with stakeholders throughout the State of Montana and provided nearly 400 presentations in over 40 communities on tourism and recreation issues, including 200 Economic Outlook presentations with the Bureau of Business and Economic Research. She gave more than 50 presentations to the Montana Governor's Tourism Advisor Council. Professor Nickerson has also provided six invited keynote presentations and given lectures on every continent except Antarctica. In recognition of her tremendous contribution to tourism research and to the Western U.S., she received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Greater Western Chapter of the Travel and Tourism Research Association.

Professor Nickerson demonstrated an uncommon dedication to the State of Montana and to the profession through her service. She was appointed to the Missoula Parks and Recreation Board by Mayor John Engen and helped advance the Fort Missoula Regional Park. She was appointed to the Parks in Focus Task Force by Governor Steve Bullock. She was also appointed as a member and then Chair of the Board of the Helena Branch of the Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank, a prestigious honor.

Professor Nickerson was honored by both University of Utah and University of North Dakota with an Outstanding Alumni Award.

The Department of Society and Conservation is very pleased to nominate Professor Nickerson for emeritus status.

ATTACHMENTS

No Attachments