

May 26-27, 2021

**ITEM 194-2701-R0521**

**Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emerita of Educational Theory and Practice upon Dr. Cheryl A. Young-Pelton; Montana State University Billings**

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**THAT**

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Dr. Cheryl A. Young-Pelton from the College of Education at Montana State University Billings, the Board of Regents wishes to express its appreciation for her service to the University and the Montana University System.

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**EXPLANATION**

Dr. Young-Pelton earned her B.S. degree in Music from Illinois State University in 1980, a M.Ed. in Educational Leadership from the University of South Florida in 1991 and an Ed.D. in Education, Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Central Florida in 2005.

She taught in public schools in Florida for twenty- two years before taking a position at the University of Nebraska Kearney as an Assistant Professor in 2005. In 2008 she joined the faculty in the Department of Educational Theory and Practice where her teaching, scholarship and service eventually merited her becoming a full Professor.

Dr. Young-Pelton holds a Behavior Analyst doctoral certification from the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI) and a Behavior Analysis License from the Montana Board of Psychologists. At Montana State University-Billings she developed a Master's degree program in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) in the College of Education. This program has attracted students from across the United States and abroad. Initially she developed and taught all the courses in the ABA program, supervised all student internships and chaired all the thesis committees. Dr. Young-Pelton led the College of Education's application for accreditation from the ABAI Accreditation Board, and the program became accredited in 2019. Dr. Young-Pelton has published numerous articles in academic journals and has been an invited speaker at national and regional conferences. In addition, she has mentored graduate students to publish and present with her.

Dr. Young-Pelton's service to the University and the College of Education has included membership of several committees, including chairing the University Graduate committee, co-chairing the University Neurodiversity committee and the College of Education Department Rank and Tenure committee. Her service to the State of Montana has included working with the Office of Public Instruction to provide consultation services to schools across the state where teachers needed support in working with students with challenging behaviors.

In 2021 Dr. Young-Pelton was awarded a Faculty Excellence award for her teaching, scholarship and service contributions to the University and the State of Montana.

For these and other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer on Dr. Cheryl A. Young-Pelton the rank of Professor Emerita of Educational Theory and Practice at Montana State University Billings and wishes her well for many years in the future.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

None