

September 15-16, 2021

ITEM 196-2004-R0921

**Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Ecology upon Dr. David W. Roberts;
Montana State University**

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Dr. David W. Roberts from the College of Letters and Science at 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 the state of Montana.

EXPLANATION

Dr. David W. Roberts received his B.S.F. in Forestry with High Honors from the University of Montana in 1977, his M.S.F. in Forest Ecology from the University of Montana in 1980, and his Ph.D. in Botany and Forestry from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1984.

He served for 13 years as the Department Head of MSU's Ecology Department and for four years as a professor in MSU's Ecology Department. Under Dr. Roberts' leadership, the Ecology Department grew to be the largest department in the College of Letters and Science with one of the largest graduate programs at MSU. Dr. Roberts led the Ecology Department through its first external program review, resulting in commendation from two previous presidents of the Ecological Society of America. He guided the development of the Conservation Biology and Ecology option and oversaw the Biology Teaching option. During his tenure as Department Head, Dr. Roberts taught at both the undergraduate and especially the graduate level.

Before coming to MSU in 2004, Dr. Roberts was awarded Teacher of the Year in the College of Natural Resources at Utah State University where he taught for 20 years. Dr. Roberts taught courses to practicing resource managers, including the basic ecology of Rocky Mountain tree species for USDA Forest Service silviculturists for 20 years.

Dr. Roberts is an internationally recognized scientist in the field of vegetation science. Two monographs co-authored by Dr. Roberts are foundational documents guiding forest management throughout the northern Rocky Mountains for 40 years. Dr. Roberts is the inventor and developer of numerous methods of statistical analysis of ecological data and serves as the methods editor for leading journals in his field. Dr. Roberts was awarded fellowships from the Australian Commonwealth Science and Research Organization, the International Center for Theoretical and Applied Ecology, the US National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis, and the Swiss Federal Institute for Forests, Snow, and Landscapes. He served as a National Science Foundation Ecology Panel member and was invited by the NSF to co-author a monograph on the Frontiers of Ecology.

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

ATTACHMENTS

None