

May 18-19, 2022

ITEM 200-1016-R0522

Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Missoula College Health Professions on Colin Henderson –University of Montana-Missoula

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Colin Henderson from the faculty of Missoula College, University of Montana, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for his 34 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.

EXPLANATION

Dr. Henderson earned his B.S. and M.S. from Brigham Young University in 1976 and 1979, respectively, and his Ph.D. from the University of New Mexico (UNM) in 1985. He is an accomplished instructor who has focused his decades of teaching in the areas of mammalian anatomy and physiology, and invertebrate and vertebrate biology. After teaching Human Anatomy and Physiology while a Ph.D. candidate at University of New Mexico from 1979 to 1985, Dr. Henderson began instruction at University of Montana in 1987 and moved over to Missoula College in 2003.

Dr. Henderson is well-known for his excellence in teaching, and beloved for his unparalleled support of students. For this, he has received much recognition and many accolades including an Outstanding Mentor Award (2007), Outstanding Teacher Award (NISOD, 2008), UM's Most Inspirational Teacher award (2008), and the Missoula's Choice awards for "Best UM Professor" in 2008 and 2012. His Anatomy and Physiology class attracted standing-room only enrollments, and his model for lab instruction set a standard for hands-on engagement. Students frequently cite his personalized attention and valuable guidance in career choices, while College Administrators will note the positive impacts of his personal touch on student retention and completion.

Drawing on his experience at UNM, and after navigating a myriad of State and Federal regulations, Dr. Henderson initiated the cadaver prosection program at Missoula College and integrated the use of cadavers into the Anatomy & Physiology labs. While providing invaluable perspective to students, this also allowed Dr. Henderson to establish and advance important community partnerships for Missoula College in the health professions disciplines. He initiated one program to host orthopedic surgeons from Missoula Bone and Joint, who now regularly perform orthopedic surgeries on cadavers. The value to students is extremely high, and has provided area physicians an opportunity to interact with and support students in a relaxed atmosphere. Another recent effort led by Dr. Henderson hosted physicians for specialized surgical training, again using the cadaver lab at Missoula College.

Dr. Henderson's productive research has led to many insights into honey bee colonies and the challenges facing this species, as well as their unique attributes as biosensors, and their importance in pollinating crops. His list of publications in these areas is wide-ranging and has been extremely impactful for land management as well as conservation. His collaboration with researcher and co-author Dr. J. J. Bromenshenk has led to US Patents, and revealed important roles for bee colonies in boosting crop production, environmental monitoring, and detecting land-mines and IEDs, while also examining the effects of pesticides on bee colonies. He has presented his research findings, as well as keynote addresses, at numerous national and international conferences.

Known for his warm personality and direct communication style, Dr. Henderson has provided a high level of service to the UM community. His role in University-wide committees and projects is superlative, and provides an example for others to emulate. He demonstrates a unique ability to handle sensitive or controversial issues with both collegiality and respect for others. His intention is always to place student success as the highest priority, while using creative thinking to find solutions to complex problems.

Simply put, very few individuals have been as impactful to the success of Missoula College as Dr. Colin Henderson. We have been blessed to work with a colleague of such high caliber, and our students have benefited immensely from his teaching and mentoring.

The Department is pleased to nominate Professor Henderson for emeritus status.

ATTACHMENTS

None