

May 18-19, 2022

ITEM 200-2001-R0522

Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Plant Sciences upon Dr. David Sands; Montana State University

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Dr. David Sands from the Department of Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology 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. Sands has served as plant pathology faculty for 45 years, carrying out novel research and developing several important classes to introduce undergrads to biotechnology and to majors and careers in STEM fields. Dr. Sands is the founder of the MSU Introduction to Biotechnology course, BIOB 105, and in that capacity, Dr. Sands introduced a large number of thought-provoking biotechnology topics to thousands of students. BIOB 105 was and is one of the largest enrollment courses taught at MSU and has had a significant positive impact upon students' engagement in research projects as undergraduates.

In his research program, Dr. Sands led research into such topics as the use of Fusarium strains to control non-native plants. He was also behind the increased visibility of MSU as a developer of gluten-free crops and worked with local companies to help them develop markets for their products. Dr. Sands is well known for his work in biocontrol and the development of gluten-free crops. Dr. Sands biocontrol work in recent years focused on the control of noxious weeds such as Striga which limits crop yields in Africa and Canadian thistle which impacts organic crops in Montana. His research area has large potential benefits to both developing countries and organic farmers who can't rely upon synthetic herbicides.

For these and other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer upon Dr. David Sands the rank of Professor Emeritus of Plant Sciences at Montana State University and wishes him well for many years into the future.

ATTACHMENTS

None