



December 13, 2022

Members of the Montana Board of Regents
c/o Commissioner Clayton T. Christian
Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education
2500 Broadway Street
P.O. Box 203201
Helena, MT 59620-3201

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

It is with great pride that I share the nominations for two remarkable individuals for Honorary Doctorates at the University of Montana: Mandy Smoker Broaddus for an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters and John Shaffner for an Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts. I would like to present these degrees at our Spring Commencement exercises on May 13, 2023. Both of these nominations have been through the campus process, including action at the appropriate department/college level as well as action by the Faculty Senate in executive session. Included with this letter, you will find complete nomination packets for both nominees.

Mandy Smoker Broaddus is a renowned poet, respected teacher, former Montana co-poet laureate and public education and Indian Education leader. A member of the Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux tribes, she completed her Masters in Fine Arts at UM before serving as an instructor for Fort Peck Community College and Dean of Students for Frazer Public Schools. In 2005, she started her service with Montana's Office of Public Instruction, where she played instrumental roles in the Indian Education for All program and the Schools of Promise Initiative. Working for Education Northwest as a Practice Expert in Native Education since 2018, she was also a Montana Co-Poet Laureate from 2019-2021. Her publications include a poetry collection and graphic novel, and her lengthy list of honors and awards boasts the Montana Governor's Award for Excellence in Performance and the National Indian Education Association Educator of the Year.

A widely celebrated and influential television and theatre production designer, John Shaffner is a Missoula native and University of Montana graduate. During his multi-decade career, he served as the designer for an impressive list of television pilots, television series, television specials, live theatrical performances and talk show series. In addition to his six Emmy Awards, four Art Directors Guild awards and numerous nominations, he was honored as an UM Distinguished Alumnus in 1992 and received the UM Odyssey Award in 2002. Now retired, he continues to dedicate a substantial amount of time to service – including his current roles as chair-elect of UM's College of the Arts and Media's Advisory Council and Vice Chair for the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. A dedicated mentor to many, including generations of set designers from UM's School of Theatre and Dance, he will produce and emcee UM's Odyssey of the Stars gala this spring.

Thank you for your consideration of these distinguished professionals and UM alumni for Honorary Doctorates at the University of Montana. Both nominations have my full support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Seth Bodnar".

Seth Bodnar
President