



November 21, 2022

Commissioner Clayton Christian  
Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education  
560 North Park Avenue  
Helena, Montana 59620-3201

Dear Commissioner Christian:

This is a request for the Board of Regents to confirm the recommendation of an honorary degree to Ms. Carol Glenn Lalani, to be awarded at Montana State University's (MSU) commencement ceremony in the Spring 2023. Ms. Lalani was recommended by the MSU Honorary Degree Committee and Faculty Senate leadership will vote on this honorary degree recommendation on Dec. 7, 2022.

**Carol Glenn Lalani (Honorary Doctor of Arts):**

Carol Glenn Lalani was born in Bozeman, Montana and raised in Livingston. Her father was raised on a homestead in the Shields Valley near Ringling and her grandmother taught generations of children in a one room schoolhouse. Upon graduating from the University of Montana, she embarked on an international banking career while never losing sight of her devotion to humanitarian causes, particularly related to access to education in underserved communities and combating the trafficking of women and children.

For the past ten years, Carol and her husband, Sal Lalani, have been outstanding members of the Bozeman, Livingston and greater Montana communities. It is no exaggeration to say that every arts organization in our community benefited from the Lalani's generosity: the Bozeman Symphony, Shakespeare in the Parks, the Intermountain Opera Company and the Montana Chamber Music Society, the President's Fine Arts Series, to name but a few. Perhaps their most transformative gift to our state is the Shane Center in Livingston. This arts center, named for their late son, has become the heart of the cultural life in Paradise Valley, drawing audiences from Livingston, Bozeman, Big Timber and Billings. The "Shane" is an example of a community arts center at its best.

Carol and her husband, Sal, have also been leading supporters of the MSU chapter of Engineers Without Borders. Over the last ten years, the work of our students would not have been possible without the financial support of the Lalanis. The reasons for their support are two-fold: First, Mr. Lalani was born in Kenya and has been inspired to give back to the country of his birth. Second, and a prime reason for building water wells at elementary schools (and not in the center of town for example), is because the water carriers are girls. With water wells located at schools, the water carriers, i.e. the girls, have a reason to go to school. And we know, that if girls are educated, communities prosper.

**Office of the President**

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To uplift children and women has been Carol Lalani's most passionate work. She has been active domestically and internationally fighting slavery of women and children, the illicit trade and trafficking of women and children and has employed her expertise in international finance to set-up women in small businesses by providing them with access to micro-finance and lending organizations. She has supported women and children in Kenya, India, Pakistan and Afghanistan. She has supported the plight of refugees and actively support organizations who support the victims of domestic abuse. She has supported the work of "Haven" in the Bozeman community and funded the first Presidential Scholarship for a Native American student, who has now graduated from Montana State University. Ms. Lalani is the recipient of an Honorary Alumni Award from the Honors College and serves on the College of Arts and Architecture Advisory Council.

Carol is a quiet and transformative leader. She has set in motion and supported structures and organizations, that support the most vulnerable members of society. She has changed countless lives for the better and would set a wonderful example to our graduates of what it means to live a life in service to others.

In closing, Montana State University wholeheartedly supports the nomination of Ms. Carol Glenn Lalani for an honorary doctorate degree from Montana State University. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration as the students, faculty and staff of Montana State University would be so proud to honor Ms. Carol Glenn Lalani at MSU's Spring 2023 commencement ceremony.

Sincerely,



Waded Cruzado  
President