

May 17-18, 2023

**ITEM 206-2001-R0523**

**Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emerita of History upon Dr. Mary Murphy;  
Montana State University**

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**THAT**

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Professor Mary Murphy from Montana State University, the Board of Regents wishes to express its appreciation for her service to the University, the Montana University System and the people of the State of Montana.

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**EXPLANATION**

Dr. Mary Murphy retired from the faculty at Montana State University after thirty-three years of teaching and research in the Department of History and Philosophy. Her contributions to the University and the profession have been significant and wide-ranging. In addition to her positions in the Department, she also served as Director of the Ivan Doig Center for the Study of the Lands & Peoples of the North American West, a Center that she was instrumental in helping to create. She was also influential in the founding and success of MSU's doctoral program in History and in the Department's commitment to Public History. Dr. Murphy's dedication to the University is perhaps unmatched in the humanities at Montana State University and includes her commitment to advancing PhD and MA students within the Department, serving as Chair of 11 PhD committees and over 40 MA committees. She has been a dedicated mentor and role model for undergraduate and graduate students alike.

Dr. Murphy's success in the classroom and service to the University aligns with her productivity as a scholar. Mary Murphy has produced award-winning, internationally recognized scholarship. Her book, *Mining Cultures: Men, Women, and Leisure in Butte, 1914-41*, is a foundational text in both Western History and Gender Studies, and she is considered one of the foremost scholars in the world in her ability to combine the two. Her other monograph and edited books, along with her long list of book chapters, refereed journal articles, exhibit texts, and solicited articles show her commitment to scholarship, her importance to the advancement of the profession, and her ongoing interest in sharing her work and the work of her students to both academics and the broader community in Montana and the world. That she still has publications listed on her CV which are "forthcoming" and a "book-in-progress" that is under contract with the Montana Historical Society Press, shows her continued dedication to scholarship for the benefit of the University and the disciplines of American History, Western History, Montana History, and Public History.

While the number of committees she has served on, the number of students she has taught, the number of PhDs she has mentored, and the number of books and journal articles she has published are all neatly quantifiable, it is her non-quantifiable dedication to the people at the University and in the profession that is even more impressive, and more visible, to people who have worked with her over these past decades.

For these and other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer upon Mary Murphy the rank of Professor Emerita of History at Montana State University and wishes her well for many years into the future.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

None