

May 21, 2025

ITEM 218-2701-R0525

Request for authorization to confer the title of Professor Emeritus of English upon Dr. Bernard Quetchenbach, Montana State University Billings

THAT

Following the retirement of Dr. Bernard Quetchenbach from Montana State University Billings after 18 years of service, the Board of Regents wishes to express its appreciation for his service to Montana State University Billings, the city of Billings, the Montana University System, and the State of Montana.

EXPLANATION

Dr. Bernard Quetchenbach was a member of the English, Philosophy, and Modern Languages Department from 2006 to 2024, teaching courses in literature, creative writing, and other areas of the discipline for majors and minors in English and for the general education program. In his classes, he combined best practices in community-based learning, civic engagement, field application, engaging students intellectually, challenging them with a broad vision of literature, and providing opportunities for students to become active community members. He invited guest speakers from the community and as far away as the Amazon forest in Peru so that they could provide diverse/multicultural viewpoints to broaden students' perspectives and understanding of complex issues. In two instances, he took students from his Environmental Vision course, as well as other students, to Iquitos, Peru where they experienced diverse and multicultural perspectives.

With degrees from SUNY-Brockport and Purdue University, Dr. Quetchenbach is a prolific scholar-researcher and author. He has published ten books, over 80 articles and essays in periodicals, anthologies, and collections; has had his poetry appear in over 70 periodicals, anthologies and collections; has been a co-editor, editorial Board member, reviewer and reader for 22 different publications; and has presented his work in over 80 professional forums. He has earned several grants to support his work in the Amazon forest along with other research interests and been the recipient of several honors and awards that include a Faculty Excellence Award, the O. Marvin Lewis Essay Award, and two Listed Notable Essays.

Much of Dr. Quetchenbach's teaching and research has focused on the stories we tell that help shape the world in which we live and are often used as a means of discovering our place as individuals in cultures that exist within the wider world we inhabit. His emphasis on how stories help shape the human experience in natural environments has resulted in research and publications that inform his classroom teaching. Students in his courses learn how stories told by Indigenous people in both Montana and Amazonia have adapted to today's rapidly changing conditions. This connection between disparate parts of our world offers a further benefit: they shine a light on Montana and its connections to the Amazon.

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

ATTACHMENTS

None