

May 20, 2026

**ITEM 224-1501-R0526**

**Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus on Mike Stickney – Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology - Montana Technological University**

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**THAT**

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Bureau Professional Practice Professor Mike Stickney from the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, Montana Tech, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for his 45 years of dedication and valued service by requesting that the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon him by the Board of Regents of Higher Education.

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**EXPLANATION**

Mike earned his B.S. in Geology from the University of Montana in 1978 and his M.S. in Geology from the University of Montana in 1980. In recognition of his significant contributions to the field, he was awarded an honorary Ph.D. in Earth Sciences from Montana State University in 2004.

Mike joined the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology in 1980, where he established the Earthquake Studies Office. He pioneered the Montana Regional Seismograph Network in 1982, beginning with a single station and strategically expanding it to a 50-station network by 2025, including a dozen state-of-the-art digital broadband stations.

Mike forged vital collaborations with regional universities, tribal nations, neighboring states, and the Yellowstone Volcano Observatory to produce a comprehensive regional earthquake catalog. These data remain foundational to our understanding of the Intermountain Seismic Belt. In addition to seismological studies, Mike is a charter member of the Montana Earthquake Working Group. His fieldwork mapping Quaternary faults and his participation in paleo seismological studies have been instrumental in assessing seismic hazards. He has been a tireless source of information to the public and state and federal agencies on seismic hazards in Montana.

Mike served as the President of the Tobacco Root Geological Society for 9 years (2007—2015), and on the Board of Directors for 10 years (2016—Present). Over his career, Mike has been a longtime contributor to numerous professional publications, with over 60 publications, including many papers in Northwest Geology.

Based on his accomplishments in research and service to the state of Montana, the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology is pleased to nominate Bureau Professional Practice Professor Mike Stickney as Professor Emeritus of the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology at Montana Technological University together with all the rights, privileges, and honors thereto appertaining.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

No Attachments