

September 24, 2026

ITEM 226-1601-R0926

Authorization for Authorization to Confer the Title of Instructor Emeritus of Equine Studies on Lola "Olie" Else; University of Montana Western

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Instructor Lola "Olie" Else from the faculty of the Equine Studies Department of The University of Montana Western, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for her 38 years of dedicated and valued service to the University and the State of Montana by recommending that the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon her by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

EXPLANATION

Lola "Olie" Else, as she is known to all, has been a well-known and respected individual at The University of Montana Western for 38 years. Mention her name to any Western alum, and they immediately know who Olie is. Olie earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Western Montana College in 1973 and later received her Master of Education degree from the University of Montana in 1995.

Olie began working at Western Montana College in 1988 in the Learning Center and eventually became a faculty member in the Business & Technology Department. She was instrumental in helping establish the only four-year Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Horsemanship at The University of Montana Western. Over time, the Natural Horsemanship program grew into its own department, now known as the Equine Studies Department, where Olie served as department chair for several years.

Olie was both a successful and highly respected teacher. She excelled at connecting students with the local community by visiting area ranchers and introducing students to a variety of equine practices and operations. She was also instrumental in securing the first four ranchers to donate colts to the Colt Challenge and Sale. Throughout her career, Olie taught a wide range of courses in both the Business & Technology and Equine Studies Departments.

In addition to her teaching responsibilities, Olie served as rodeo coach for 24 years. During that time, she coached several regional and CNFR champions and was honored with multiple Coach of the Year awards.

For these reasons, along with many others not listed here, the Equine Studies Department is proud to nominate Instructor Lola "Olie" Else for emeritus status.

Sincerely,

Denise D Holland
Division Chair Professional Studies
Chair of the Business & Technology Department
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ATTACHMENTS

No Attachments