

**ITEM 140-2001-R0708**

**Professor Emeritus of Electrical and Computer Engineering:**  
**James N. Peterson; Montana State University–Bozeman**

**THAT:**

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Dr. James N. Peterson from Montana State University, the Board of Regents wishes to express its appreciation for his service to the University, the Montana University System, and the people of the State of Montana.

**EXPLANATION:**

Dr. James N. Peterson retired in the fall of 2007, completing seven years of noteworthy service as ECE Professor and Department Head at Montana State University. Dr. Peterson completed his undergraduate work in Electrical Engineering at the University of Idaho in 1965. He then successfully pursued graduate studies, receiving an MS from the University of Idaho in 1967 and a PhD from Iowa State University in 1980. He was employed in industry by Boeing (1966-69) and The Analytical Sciences Corporation (1972-75). He is a Registered Professional Engineer (P.E.).

Dr. Peterson's early academic career featured 25 years on the faculty of the University of Idaho (1975-2000), including 6 years as Idaho EE Department Chair (1981-87).

Dr. Peterson became ECE Department Head at MSU in 2000, beginning a transformation in the role and mission of the ECE program. During his tenure as Head, Dr. Peterson guided the hiring of nine new professors—nearly 75% of the current faculty—and established a balanced, sustainable focus on both teaching and research. During this period the research expenditures in the Department rose from less than \$1M/year in 2000 to over \$2.8M for the past year.

Dr. Peterson also led the Department in the creation of a new undergraduate degree program in Computer Engineering, supported the creation of new ECE courses and opportunities for hands-on learning, and led the adoption of a new campus-wide course in technology, innovation, and society.

Dr. Peterson continues his efforts on curricular development and innovation through a new initiative for on-line education of pre-engineering students located at MSU-Billings, tribal colleges, and other educational institutions around the state. He is also remaining active as a Program Evaluator and consultant for academic accreditation via the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET).

For these and other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer upon James N. Peterson that rank of Professor Emeritus of Electrical and Computer Engineering and wishes him well for many years in the future.