

May 28-29, 2009

ITEM 143-2003-R0509

**Professor Emeritus of Nursing: Elizabeth G. Nichols;
Montana State University-Bozeman**

THAT:

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Dr. Elizabeth G. Nichols from the faculty of 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.

EXPLANATION:

Elizabeth Nichols completed her undergraduate work in Nursing at San Francisco State College in 1969. She then successfully pursued graduate studies, earned an MS in Nursing from the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) in 1970, an MA from Idaho State University in Political Science in 1989, and a DNS in Nursing from UCSF in 1974.

Dean Nichols' early academic career featured 8 years on the faculty of UCSF (1974-1982), 3 years on faculty as Chairperson of Nursing at Idaho State University (1982-1985), 6 years as Associate Dean of the College of Health Sciences for the School of Nursing of University of Wyoming (1985-1991), 4 years as Assistant to the President for Program Reviews at the University of Wyoming (1991-1995), and 9 years as Dean and Professor of the College of Nursing of the University of North Dakota (1995-2004).

Dean Nichols became Dean of the College of Nursing at MSU in 2004. During Dr. Nichols' tenure as Dean she led the college in its successful attainment of professional reaccreditation at the maximum allowable level of ten years, she supported the expansion and improvement of distance learning across the state and beyond, advanced the level of knowledge and understanding of the administrative team regarding fiscal operations, and instilled a level of fiscal responsibility and accountability within the college operations. The research mission of the college has expanded under Dean Nichols' leadership and she led the college to expand its graduate program, introducing a new graduate degree option, the Clinical Nurse Leader. Recently, Dean Nichols has laid the groundwork for adding a clinical track for nursing faculty, recognizing the work of adjunct nursing faculty as integral to the mission of the college.

Dean Nichols continues her efforts as a faculty member by teaching an on-line course in the undergraduate curriculum. She remains active as a member of the Board of Visitors, College of Pharmacy, University of Montana, a member of the Advisory Board, College of Allied Health Professions, MSU - Billings, a member of the Advisory Board, Department of Nursing, Montana State University - Northern, and a member of the Government Relations Committee of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing. Dean Nichols also continues in her role as Accreditation Site Visitor for the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities and for the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

Dean Nichols' research and scholarly achievements are reflected in numerous publications, book chapters, and proceedings in the areas of gerontology, distance education, and curriculum. She has received numerous awards including the Jo Eleanor Elliott Leadership Award from the Western Institute of Nursing. She has been recognized as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nurses and a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America for her contributions to the profession and these societies.

For these and other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer upon Elizabeth G. Nichols the rank of Professor Emeritus of Nursing at Montana State University and wishes her well for many years in the future.