

March 1-2, 2012

ITEM #154-2001-R0312

**Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Film and Photography on William Neff;
Montana State University-Bozeman**

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of William Neff from the faculty of 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

William Neff received his Baccalaureate degree from Hofstra University in Psychology in 1952 and upon graduation began a successful career in film and television production in New York City, directing numerous television commercials and corporate films. He also produced and directed numerous government films around the world while in the U.S. Army. He began teaching at The University of Denver where he earned a Master's Degree in 1972 and eventually the PhD in Speech Communications in 1977. While at Denver, Bill's interests in filmmaking expanded to include scriptwriting.

Bill brought his considerable professional and academic experience to MSU in 1977, and produced and directed numerous productions for KUSM and other organizations, created original films often in collaboration with other faculty and students, and performed as actor in countless student and several commercial productions over the years. All told Bill has produced and directed, and often wrote and shot, over 35 films and television programs, garnering several film festival awards and other accolades. He is a member of the Screen Actors Guild and the Directors Guild of America.

At MSU, Bill taught a wide variety of courses including Directing, Film Production, Film History, with a focus on Scriptwriting. During his long tenure, Bill has served on numerous college and university committees and as a board member of the Montana Ballet, Sweet Pea Festival of the Arts and the Bozeman Film Festival. Bill also served as Chair of the Department of Media and Theatre Arts from 2002-2004. His impact on successive generations of students has been profound.

For these and other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer on William Neff and rank of Professor Emeritus of Film and Photography at Montana State University and wishes him well for many years in the future.

ATTACHMENTS

No Attachments