

November 20-21, 2014

ITEM 165-1606-R1114

Authorization to Confer the Title of Chancellor/Professor of Biological Science Emeritus upon Dr. Richard D. Storey; The University of Montana Western

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Chancellor Richard D. Storey from the administration at the University of Montana Western; the faculty, students, administration and community wish to extend their appreciation for his 10 years of dedicated and valued service to the Montana University System; the University of Montana; the University of Montana Western; the city of Dillon; and the State of Montana by recommending that the title of Chancellor/Professor of Biological Science Emeritus be conferred on him by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

EXPLANATION

Dr. Richard D. Storey graduated in 1968 with a B.S. in Biology Education from the University of New Mexico where he was a varsity baseball player. Upon completion of his undergraduate degree, Storey was a biology teacher and Director of Student Activities in Albuquerque, New Mexico at Manzano High School until 1973. In 1973 he completed a Master of Natural Science degree from the University of Oklahoma. Dr. Storey earned a PH.D. in botany and biochemistry from University of Oklahoma in 1977. After conducting postdoctoral research in plant physiology and biochemistry at the Kettering Research laboratory in Yellow Springs, Ohio, he joined the faculty at Colorado College in 1978. Dr. Storey rose through the faculty ranks, served on committees, secured research grants and in 1999 became the Dean of the College and Dean of the Faculty. He served as acting President in 2000-2001. On July 15, 2004 Dr. Storey became Chancellor of the University of Montana Western.

As Chancellor, Dr. Storey brought to his position a strong belief in student success and academic excellence. On any issue his first question was "Is this what is best for the students?". His dedication to students was recognized by his award of Administrator of the Year by the Montana Associated Students in 2014. Dr. Richard D. Storey led Montana Western through a decade of unprecedented growth in enrollment, retention and graduation rates; and enhancements in academic programs, student success initiatives and campus improvements. He was a stabilizing force in the reinvention of this university.

Colorado College is the original and most prestigious private university that teaches on the "block plan" and was the model used for Montana Western's conversion to Experience One. The arrival of Dr. Storey coincided with Montana Western's implementation of block scheduling and his 25+ years of experience teaching and administering in the "block" was invaluable. Dr. Storey created an irrefutable confidence within the Montana University System and the Dillon community that Montana Western and its students would thrive under this new teaching schedule. He helped the campus learn to use the block and continued over the decade to provide great insight on how to reach the full potential of Experience One.

During the Storey decade, Montana Western improved significantly in every metric from a 41% increase in enrollment to just as dramatic increases in retention, completions, and graduation rates. During his tenure, Montana Western added a marketing director, advising center, a learning center, and improved student services. He was instrumental in the maintenance and growth of the successful Natural Horsemanship

program as a model of public/private partnership, in improving and expanding academic programs, and in the careful stewardship of Montana Western's limited resources.

The Montana Western campus improved in every aspect during his tenure, becoming much more aesthetically pleasing and safe. He successfully helped Montana Western secure all three phases of the wonderful Main Hall repair and renovation project. He oversaw the development of two strategic plans to shepherd Montana Western into the future. He thoughtfully and carefully listened to constituents and researched issues to help make good forward thinking decisions in every aspect of the university.

Chancellor Storey also leaves the legacy of a good and kind man. He cared deeply for the students, faculty, and staff and worked tirelessly to do what was right for every individual as needed.

In Dr. Storey's letter of application he said: *The job of chancellor at a small institution can be a lonely one. He or she is often caught somewhere between the Charybdis of financial realities and the Scylla of developing and executing long-range plans designed to improve the institution. He or she must be able to take the long view, to think and act strategically, and inspire others to enthusiastically engage and execute college goals, while keeping hands on college business to ensure it remains on terra firma.* Chancellor Storey lived up to those words over the last decade.

When the chancellor announced his retirement he made two promises that would be fulfilled before he retired. First that Montana Western would have a successful ad hoc report from the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities and second that the required match for Main Hall Phase III would be secured. Dr. Richard Storey also lived up to those words.

For these reasons and many more, the University of Montana Western is honored to recommend Dr. Richard D. Storey for Chancellor/Professor of Biological Science Emeritus status.

ATTACHMENTS

None