

September 13-14, 2017

ITEM 176-2001-R0917

Request for authorization to confer the title of Emeritus Research Professor upon Dr. Loren Acton, Montana State University

THAT

In recognition of Dr. Loren Acton's 23 years of service to Montana State University, his internationally recognized contribution to research in solar physics, and his strong record of mentoring faculty and students, the Board of Regents bestows the title of Emeritus Research Professor upon Dr. Loren Acton.

EXPLANATION

Professor Acton is an international leader in the field of solar physics. He served as a Spacelord 2 Payload Specialist on the space shuttle *Challenger* in 1985. To date he is the only Montana-born astronaut. Professor Acton had an almost thirty-year career at the Lockheed Missiles and Space Company before coming to MSU as a research professor in Physics in 1993. He retired on May 15, 2016 after 23 years as a research faculty member. Professor Acton has a lengthy array of peer-reviewed publications with his work being cited extensively. Additionally, Professor Acton has given numerous invited presentations – including plenary addresses at international professional meetings - on his research worldwide. Professor Acton has led several ground-breaking research teams in solar physics, including several NASA research programs and joint international research projects. He has served as Chair of the Solar Physics Division of the American Astrophysical Society and as Chair of a NASA proposal review panel in Space Physics.

Professor Acton received MSU's *Charles & Nora Wily Award for Meritorious Research* in 1996. His international stature in the field of Solar Physics has been recognized numerous times including him being awarded the *George Ellery Hale Prize* from the Solar Physics Division of the American Astronomical Society in 2000, an Honorary Doctorate from UC-Boulder in 2000, and an invitation to be the Bunyan Lecturer at Stanford in 2001.

Professor Acton has been a lynchpin of the solar physics group at MSU for over twenty years with a strong record of mentoring faculty colleagues, and graduate and undergraduate students.

Professor Acton's scholarship and service to the field of solar physics has brought distinction to Montana State University and the state of Montana.

ATTACHMENTS

None