

January 14, 2020

**ITEM 186-2006-C0120**

**Request for Authorization from the Board of Regents to Confer the Title of Associate Professor Emerita of Nursing upon Sandra W. Kuntz, Montana State University**

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**THAT**

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Associate Professor Sandra W. Kuntz from the College of Nursing at Montana State University, the Board of Regents wishes to express its appreciation for her service to the University and the Montana University System.

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**EXPLANATION**

Dr. Kuntz received her B.S.N. from California State University-Long Beach in 1969, her M.S. from Texas Womens University in 1984 focusing in public and community health, and her Ph.D. from Walden University in health services in 2004. Dr. Kuntz served as the Campus Director (equivalent to a department chair) on the College of Nursing Kalispell campus location from 2013 until her retirement in 2019.

Under Dr. Kuntz's leadership, educational programming at the Kalispell campus location was expanded and solidified. She strengthened relationships between Flathead Valley clinical agencies and the MSU College of Nursing. Dr. Kuntz brought enthusiasm and experience to her role as a CON leader. She regularly published articles for Montana audiences on new educational opportunities offered by the College of Nursing, such as the master's degree focused on clinical nurse leadership and opportunities for nurse preceptors to enrich their skills. Dr. Kuntz was instrumental in helping the CON Kalispell campus location to mature from a satellite clinical teaching site into a full-fledged CON campus location. As a seasoned, respected and supportive leader, Dr. Kuntz recruited and nurtured new faculty and helping them to develop into expert educators. Under her leadership, the CON Kalispell campus is ensuring that Montana's second fastest growing community has BSN-prepared "Bobcat" nurses to meet their nursing workforce needs.

As a public health nurse, Dr. Kuntz's scholarship focused on environmental threats to health, including bioterrorism, and rural hospitals' preparedness to address such challenges. During her time at MSU, she consistently had extramural grant funding from foundation and professional organizations and published 9 journal articles, one book chapter and regularly presented at scientific meetings. Dr. Kuntz was committed to rural communities and the people who called them home receiving awards for these contributions.

Dr. Kuntz was a beloved educator earning her consistent outstanding teaching evaluations. She guided the scholarship of both Master's and Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) students. In addition to her college contributions, Dr. Kuntz was an exemplary MSU citizen serving on Research Council among other activities.

For these, and other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer on Dr. Sandra W. Kuntz the rank of Associate Professor Emerita of Nursing at Montana State University and wishes her well for many years in the future.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

None.