

March 5-6, 2020

ITEM 187-2004-R0320

Request to Award Honorary Doctorate to William Tietz – Montana State University

THAT

In recognition of many career achievements and the distinction brought to the Montana University System as an alumni, the Board of Regents grants the Montana State University the authority to confer an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters to William Tietz.

EXPLANATION

President William “Bill” Tietz, a native of Illinois, served as Vice President for Student and University Relations before becoming dean of Colorado State University’s College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. He then became Montana State University’s ninth president on August 1, 1977 and served for 13 years.

During his tenure, Tietz was credited with supporting the development of undergraduate core curriculum, as well as expanding international studies, re-activating the university honors program and supporting educational opportunities for Native Americans. He emphasized research and creative activities, raised salaries and launched the university's tech park. Among the programs supported and expanded in the Tietz years were Shakespeare in the Parks, KUSM, MSU's Office of Academic Affairs and the MSU Alumni Association.

Additionally, President Tietz presided over the funding, planning and construction of facilities that were critical to the growth and importance of MSU. Among these were the addition to and re-model of the Strand Union Building, and the construction of the Visual Communications Building, Plant Growth Center and Animal Resources Center. The Animal Resources Center was named the William J. Tietz Hall on Friday, November 2, 2007.

For these and his other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer on President William Tietz the honorary doctorate of Humane Letters at Montana State University and wishes him well for many years in the future.

ATTACHMENTS

None