

July 15, 2021

ITEM 195-2701-R0721

Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Lecturer Emeritus of Educational Theory and Practice upon Mr. Alan Christensen; Montana State University Billings

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Mr. Alan Christensen from Montana State University Billings, 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

Mr. Christensen holds a Bachelor of Science from Montana State University and a Master of Education in Multi-Disciplinary Studies, with a K-12 Reading Endorsement, from Montana State University Billings. Prior to entering university service, Mr. Christensen was a Title One Reading Instructor at Crow Agency Public Schools.

Mr. Christensen has contributed institutional knowledge and service to the College of Education for 17 years, serving as a lecturer in both the reading and social studies programs, as well as teaching foundational courses for the College of Education, such as Education and Democracy.

Mr. Christensen exemplifies excellence in teaching. He is creative and often uses real-world examples in his teaching. He is a master storyteller and students enjoy his humor and wisdom. Mr. Christensen's mantra is "education is relationships" and he lives out this mission daily in his work. As an advisor, he spends countless hours with students, ensuring that they are cared for academically, but he also recognizes their needs as individuals. He was recognized in 2017 by the Montana State Literacy Association when he received the Pam Atchison Memorial Reading Award, a prestigious honor recognizing a teacher who has promoted love of reading in students.

In addition to possessing excellent teaching abilities, Mr. Christensen is active in service. He readily volunteers for committee work within the College of Education and the university, as well as within the community. He has served on numerous accreditation committees, the travel committee, the scholarship committee, several search committees, as well as a substitute for the appeals committee. He has also been a member of the University Curriculum Committee.

Outside of the university, he actively volunteers in the community. He serves on the Board of Directors for the Yellowstone Valley Food Hub, as well as the Board of Directors Young Families Early Head Start. He also served on the Board for the Montana State Reading Association, and he regularly volunteers in schools.

Finally, Mr. Christensen is a highly valued colleague. He actively contributes to the community within the College of Education and is extremely supportive of his colleagues and truly lives out his mantra of "education is relationships" with everyone with whom he comes into contact.

For these and other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer upon Mr. Alan Christensen the rank of Lecturer Emeritus of Educational Theory and Practice at Montana State University Billings.

ATTACHMENTS

None