

May 18-19, 2022

ITEM 200-1020-R0522

Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Geography on Christiane von Reichert – University of Montana-Missoula

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Professor Christiane von Reichert from the faculty of the University of Montana-Missoula, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for her 29 years of dedicated and valued service to the Department of Geography, the College of Humanities and Sciences, the W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation, the University, and the State of Montana by recommending that the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon her by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

EXPLANATION

Christiane von Reichert was born in Eltmann, West-Germany. She earned her baccalaureate in Economics and Business Administration from the Bayerische Julius-Maximilians Universität Würzburg in 1976, her masters of science degree in Economics and Regional Science from Christian-Albrechts Universität, Kiel in 1981, and her doctorate in Geography from the University of Idaho in 1992. Her thesis was entitled “Der Beitrag der traditionellen Standorttheorie zur Erklärung betrieblicher Standortentscheidungen in Europa nach 1945” (“The Contribution of Traditional Location Theory to the Explanation of Company Location Decisions in Europe after 1945”) and her doctoral dissertation was on “Human Capital, Migration and Regional Growth.”

Dr. von Reichert came to the University of Montana in 1992, joining the Geography tenure-track faculty in the rank of Assistant Professor. For 29 years she built a reputation as a dedicated teacher and researcher with expertise in economic geography, rural areas, migration studies, demography, transportation geography, quantitative methodologies, and regional geographies of the American West and Europe. Dr. von Reichert served the department as Chair (2013-16), as Associate Chair (2000-3, 2004-8, 2009-11, 2012-13) and as Graduate Program Director for 15 years. She was instrumental in expanding and strengthening curricular objectives for Geography as well as supporting interdisciplinary curricular initiatives across campus.

Dr. von Reichert has provided over two decades of continuous service in a broad range of areas on campus, in the community, and for the State. She has been very active in the development of research initiatives with the U.S. Census, national and international conferences, and mentoring hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students in research and professional development. She received the John Ruffatto Award in 2012 and was formally recognized for providing applied learning experiences that connect research and service to teaching while addressing the needs of business and civic communities. The University of Montana recognized her with four merit awards and most recently, the Curry Health Center on the UM campus recognized her as a Student Wellness Advocate for excellence as an educator who supports students’ well-being.

Dr. von Reichert was a member of research teams that undertook assessments of disability-related trends and economic challenges in Rural America. Her expertise was also called upon by research centers as evident by invitations to give guest lectures to regional and national audiences, to serve as a research collaborator on large grants, and to lend her expertise to the review of a range of scholarly products and activities. She also presented papers at scientific meetings and was proactive in producing public

scholarship. One of the most exciting developments during this period was her research collaborations with The Rural Institute and other entities in need of her methodological training and analytical skills.

She has received funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (Economic Research Service and Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service), and as collaborator on grants from the National Institute on Disability Rehabilitation and Research, the Liz Claiborne and Art Ortenberg Foundation, the Great Plains Symposium Project, and others. Her research has advanced scientific knowledge of rural economic systems and contributed to our understanding of community dynamics, migration patterns, and attachment to place. She is recognized as a leader on community economic and demographic transitions here in the U.S. and internationally.

Dr. von Reichert's contributions to service are extensive and deeply valued by her colleagues. Within the Department of Geography, Dr. von Reichert served as a highly responsive Chair; provided critical vision and leadership to fundraise to upgrade the GReaTLab; coordinated degree program curricula at the undergraduate and graduate levels; served on faculty search committees; scholarship committees, and more. At the level of the University, she served on the Professional Education Council in the College of Education and Human Sciences and was actively involved in supporting graduate students at UM through Graduate Council and the Graduate and Faculty Research Conferences, and served in a variety of roles on the Faculty Senate and Academic Standards and Curriculum Review Committee. Beyond the University, Dr. von Reichert served on the Mountain Line Stakeholder Committee, collaborated with the Montana Foodbank Network, and was appointed by the Governor to serve four terms on the Montana Land Inventory Council. Dr. von Reichert was frequently called upon to provide service as a peer reviewer for national and international journals such as *Rural Sociology*, *Population Research and Policy Review*, *Geographical Review*, *Regional Studies*, *Population and Environment*, *Urban Geography*, and more and as a reviewer for grant applications to the USDA and National Science Foundation.

The Department of Geography and the Department of Society and Conservation are honored to recommend Professor Christiane von Reichert for Emeritus status. *Ecology*; *Union Seminary Quarterly Review*; *The Ometeca Journal: Science and Humanities*; *The Journal of Political Theology*; *the Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature*; and *The Journal of Men's Studies*.

ATTACHMENTS

None