

May 18-19, 2022

ITEM 200-1602-R0522

Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Fine Arts and Education on Dr. Judy Ulrich, The University of Montana Western

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Judy Ulrich from the faculty of The University of Montana Western, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for her 36 years of dedicated and valued service to the University and the State of Montana by recommending that the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon him/her by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

EXPLANATION

Dr. Judy Ulrich joined the faculty at the University of Montana Western in 1986 while completing her doctoral work at Michigan State University, where she earned a Ph.D. in Theatre with emphases in youth theatre and drama in 1988. Over the past 35 years, Dr. Ulrich served UMW as a Professor of Fine Arts and Education, directed or costumed over 30 plays, and chaired numerous committees as well as the Fine Arts department.

As a faculty member, Dr. Ulrich has participated in the development of multiple programs that have shaped the face of Montana Western. Early in her time at UMW, she assisted in the development of the Rural Friday program, which now for over 30 years has brought rural school children to Montana Western's campus. In 1997, Dr. Ulrich developed two online courses for Montana Western's "Big Sky Telegraph" which she continued to teach online for over 20 years. And, in the early 2000s, she assisted in the development of Western's Experience One program and taught the first "block" course, "Introduction to the Visual and Performing Arts" in the pilot program. Since the inception of X1, Dr. Ulrich has embraced the experiential model with field trips and visits from guest artists and educators in the majority of her courses. She has also led study trips to New York, London, and France.

Dr. Ulrich's scholarship and creative work has included articles in *Early Years* and *Instructor*, an adaptation of a Japanese language script of Virginia Koste's *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1996), and numerous theatrical productions as a director, costume designer, and actor. She has also served as the Associate Editor of *Youth Theatre Review* from 1988-1993 and a script and book review author from 1990-1993. Over the years Dr. Ulrich has also been the principal grant writer and recipient of dozens grants to support visiting artists. She received an \$18,000 Montana Arts Council/National Endowment for the Arts "Arts are Central" grant to support the development of a teen drama program and a \$7000 Montana Cultural Trust Grant to renovate the Beier Auditorium on UMW's campus. She is continuing her theatrical work with a playscript in progress, "Tena's Story," which is a one-woman show based on a single mother and early 20th-century Montana Homesteader.

Dr. Ulrich also worked tirelessly to build the arts in the Dillon, MT community. She founded the Southwest Montana Arts Council in 1988, developed and coordinated the Council's theatre and dance series and managed grant writing, fundraising, communications, and volunteer activities from 1988-1994, and served on the Board from 1995-1998 and in 2000. From 2007-2016 she served on the Montana Arts Council as an appointee of the Governor of Montana. Since 2014, she has also developed and managed Dillon's Bank of Commerce Performing Arts Series, which includes performances by visiting artists as well as student productions. Since 2017 she has served as the events and facilities coordinator for the Small Auditorium (130 seat) and Beier Auditorium (450 seat) as well as the scene and costume shops on UMW's campus.

Dr. Ulrich's 36 years of service and vast contributions have and will continue to impact the Montana Western community well past her retirement and she very much deserves the status of Emeritus Professor.

ATTACHMENTS

None