

November 21-22, 2024

ITEM 215-2011-R1124

Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Soil Chemistry upon Dr. Bill Inskeep; Montana State University

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Dr. Bill Inskeep from the College of Agriculture at Montana State University, the Board of Regents wishes to express its appreciation for their service to the University, the Montana University System, and the people of the State of Montana.

EXPLANATION

Dr. William P. Inskeep has had a distinguished academic career spanning over 38 years, primarily focused on soil and environmental chemistry, geomicrobiology, and biogeochemistry. He has been a professor at Montana State University (MSU) since 1996, after joining in 1987 as an assistant professor. Dr. Inskeep's research expertise includes microbial genomics, environmental chemistry, bioremediation, and nutrient cycling. His work often examines the fate and transport of contaminants in various environments, contributing significantly to the fields of microbial and environmental science, with an h-index of 65 reflecting his influential scholarly contributions.

Over the years, Dr. Inskeep has held various leadership roles at MSU, including Director of the NSF IGERT Program from 2007 to 2014 and Co-Director of the Thermal Biology Institute from 2002 to 2005. His professional roles demonstrate his ability to bridge interdisciplinary research, especially in microbial ecology and biogeochemical systems, while mentoring the next generation of scientists. Throughout his career, Dr. Inskeep has been actively involved in securing substantial research funding, managing multimillion-dollar projects from agencies like NASA, the NSF, and the Department of Energy. His research has been widely published in top-tier journals such as *Nature Microbiology* and *Environmental Microbiology*. His work has helped to elucidate the role of microbial processes in extreme environments, particularly in geothermal systems like those found in Yellowstone National Park, where he has focused on studying microbial diversity and geochemical interactions.

Dr. Inskeep's contributions have been recognized through numerous awards, including the Provost's Award for Graduate Research and Creativity Mentoring in 2015 and the Cox Faculty Award for Creative Scholarship and Teaching in 2008. His international collaborations and leadership in microbial ecology have made him a respected figure in the field, as evidenced by his extensive invited presentations and participation in various international and national scientific committees.

For these and other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer upon Dr. Inskeep the rank of Professor Emeritus of Soil Chemistry at Montana State University and wishes him well for many years into the future.

ATTACHMENTS

None