

November 21-22, 2024

**ITEM 215-2013-R1124**

**Request for authorization to confer the title of Professor Emeritus of Entomology upon Dr. Kevin O'Neill; Montana State University**

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**THAT**

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Dr. Kevin O'Neill 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.

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**EXPLANATION**

Dr. Kevin M. O'Neill, whose distinguished career as a professor of entomology at Montana State University has demonstrated his unwavering commitment to research, teaching, and mentorship, has demonstrated exemplary contributions to his discipline and university for 39 years. Dr. O'Neill has made significant contributions to the field of insect ecology, particularly focusing on pollinator behavior, solitary wasps, and bees. His expertise in insect behavioral ecology and biodiversity studies has been widely recognized, with numerous publications in high-impact journals and collaborations in national and international research projects.

Dr. O'Neill's impressive academic career includes several prestigious awards, such as the Phi Kappa Phi Anna K. Fridley Award for Distinguished Teaching and the President's Excellence in Teaching Award at MSU. His ability to integrate his research into his teaching has made him a beloved educator, inspiring both undergraduate and graduate students alike. In addition to teaching, Dr. O'Neill has advised numerous graduate students and postdoctoral associates, guiding them in cutting-edge research on pollinators and insect ecology, further enhancing his department's reputation.

As a highly respected member of the scientific community, Dr. O'Neill has contributed to significant research funding initiatives, including USDA-NIFA grants aimed at increasing pollinator sustainability. His leadership in projects focusing on alfalfa leafcutting bees and native bee conservation has had a lasting impact on both agricultural ecosystems and environmental policy.

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

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**ATTACHMENTS**

None