

November 21-22, 2024

ITEM 215-2016-R1124**Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emerita of Community Health upon Dr. Suzanne Held; Montana State University**

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Dr. Suzanne Held from Montana State University, the Board of Regents wishes to express its appreciation for her service to the University, the Montana University System and the people of the State of Montana.

EXPLANATION

Dr. Suzanne Held served as a tenure-track faculty member for 29 years prior to her retirement from her tenured position. During that time, she made substantial and sustained contributions in community health using community-based participatory research methods, drawing on the insight and expertise of Apsáalooke community members to address and improve health outcomes. Via collaborations with both MSU faculty and various community partners, Dr. Held has positively impacted the health of numerous Montanans and community members via her community health programs, research and outreach. One illustration of her exemplary community health work was the collaborative formation of the non-profit *Messengers for Health*, which utilizes traditional Apsáalooke (Crow) methods of knowledge transmissions to both harness cultural strengths and improve individual and community health outcomes. Through Dr. Held's leadership, MSU students in the Community Health program have long had the opportunity to apply their classroom knowledge to community health program planning and evaluation and learn how to apply community-based participatory research to improve health outcomes.

In addition to a highly successful academic career (Dr. Held has published over 45 peer-reviewed manuscripts and secured over \$13 million in grant funding), Dr. Held was instrumental in starting both the Community Health program here at MSU as well as the recently established Indigenous and Rural Health Doctorate program. Her work on curriculum and program advancement has, and will continue to, pave the way for numerous future students.

She published 48 peer-reviewed papers and 5 book chapters, the vast majority with students and community partners as co-authors. She also secured over \$13.4 million in funding as Principal Investigator. Dr. Held led the development of MSU's interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Indigenous and Rural Health. Among receiving numerous university awards, she was honored as one of the 125 Extraordinary Ordinary Women of Montana State University in 2018.

For these and other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer upon Dr. Suzanne Held the rank of Professor Emerita of Community Health in the Department of Human Development and Community Health at Montana State University and wishes her well for many years into the future.

ATTACHMENTS

None