

January 8, 2025

ITEM 216-1501-R0125

Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Mechanical Engineering on George Steven Tarrant; Montana Technological University

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Mr. George Steven Tarrant from the faculty of Montana Technological University, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for his years of dedicated and valued service to the institution, the Department of Mechanical Engineering, and the state of Montana by recommending the rank of Professor Emeritus in the Department of Mechanical Engineering be conferred upon him by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

EXPLANATION

Mr. Tarrant earned his B.S. in Music at the University of Wyoming in 1978, his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering magna cum laude from the University of Michigan – Ann Arbor in 1984, and his M.S. in Engineering Science from Pennsylvania State University in 2000. Mr. Tarrant retired from Montana Technological University as an Associate Professor of Practice in 2022 after 11 years in the General and Mechanical Engineering Departments. He returned after retirement to aid the department in teaching courses for another two years finishing in Spring of 2024. He started as an Adjunct Professor in General Engineering in 2011, was hired as a Visiting Professor in 2013, and as our first Professor of Practice in 2015. Mr. Tarrant brought over 30 years of industrial and research experience to Montana Technological University. His previous experience enabled him to teach industrially-relevant courses and lead impactful student capstone projects.

Mr. Tarrant brought his wealth of technical and professional knowledge to Montana Tech from his first day as an instructor. One example of this was Steve's experience working for Morton Thiokol following the Challenger Space Shuttle disaster in the mid-80's. Mr. Tarrant worked on the engineering team responsible for the re-engineering of the O-ring systems directly related to the failures that occurred that day. This type of engineering experience and being able to convey the decision-making and problem-solving skills that were needed was truly invaluable to our students as they become engineers. His love of music was also an important part of what he brought to our department, students, and community. Steve created a music class MUSI 101 – Enjoyment of Music that was later accepted as a General Education humanities course. He has been a member of the Butte Symphony and the Highlands Brass, playing the trumpet for many years.

Mr. Tarrant made considerable contributions to Montana Technological University and to his profession as well as the community in which he lived. These contributions should be commended. For these reasons, the Department and Faculty of Mechanical Engineering are honored to nominate Mr. Steve Tarrant for the rank of Professor Emeritus of Mechanical Engineering at Montana Technological University.

ATTACHMENTS

None