



December 3, 2024

Commissioner Clayton Christian  
Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education  
560 North Park Avenue  
Helena, Montana 59620-3201

Dear Commissioner Christian:

This is a request for the Board of Regents to confirm the recommendation of an honorary degree to Morton H. Meyerson, to be awarded at Montana State University's (MSU) commencement ceremony in the Spring 2025. Mr. Meyerson was recommended by the MSU Honorary Degree Committee and Faculty Senate leadership voted in favor of this honorary degree recommendation.

**Morton H. Meyerson (Honorary Doctor of Business):**

Morton H. Meyerson was born in Fort Worth, Texas in 1938. He received a BA ('61) in economics and philosophy from UT Austin and in 2005, was a recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award. After college, Morton became an officer in the Army serving two years of active duty and six years in the active reserves, where he focused on computers.

Mr. Meyerson is a respected entrepreneur, business leader, philanthropist, humanist and proud American. In addition to his remarkable success in business he has influenced modern American history with his role in the H. Ross Perot presidential campaign. He is an avid supporter of the arts, most notably with the Dallas Symphony Center being named in his honor. He was elected to the American Academy of Arts & Sciences as a fellow in 2007. He is a tireless advocate for the land grant mission –investing in scholarships to advance a better future for youth, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Mr. Meyerson spends a considerable amount of time leading two family foundations. He chairs the Morton H. Meyerson Family Tzedakah Funds. Morton and his family firmly believe in the Jewish philosophy of "Tzedakah" and they pursue projects through the David Nathan Meyerson Foundation and the Marlene Nathan Meyerson Family Foundation. These foundations primarily support small non-profit organizations with low administrative expenses and "change agent" leaders who are passionate, competent, and kind.

Morton H. Meyerson is both a highly successful and distinguished business leader and a dedicated philanthropist. His notable business career includes, amongst other leadership roles, serving as President of Electronic Data Systems (EDS), a

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groundbreaking and innovative systems consulting enterprise that was later acquired by General Motors. At GM, Mort subsequently held the position of Chief Technology Officer. In addition, Mort served as CEO of duPont Glore Forgan, a prominent Wall Street brokerage firm. His contributions to the business world were recognized with his induction into the Texas Business Hall of Fame in 2021.

During his many years living in our beloved Treasure State, he provided the impetus, networks, investment, and mentorship in support of the MSU Hilleman Scholars program. The Hilleman Scholars Program would not have materialized without Mr. Meyerson. He is a tenacious advocate for under-represented individuals. He also actively and quietly supported both start-up businesses and nonprofits from across Montana providing patient counsel and investment.

Not only did he provide the first scholarship funds for the Hilleman program – he actively gave his time, selflessly mentoring students and staff to achieve the program ideals. Over the course of the history of the Hilleman program, Mr. Meyerson provided hundreds of hours of consultation, mentoring, support, and championing of the program without regard for notice or acclaim. While his scholarship funds were an important catalyst, it was his mentorship and belief in the program that generated many of the results that are visible today.

Mr. Meyerson believes deeply in equity and access – leveling the playing field for others who have less advantage and all the potential to succeed. Until his health dictated otherwise, he would regularly meet with students both in large groups and one-on-one consultations providing them with perspective and stories to encourage their education and set stretch goals.

It is difficult to capture the impact Mr. Meyerson has had on hundreds-of-thousands, if not millions of lives associated with his leadership in business, arts, philanthropy, and venture investment. Mr. Meyerson is a product and champion of the public land grant mission in its truest form, and it would be a tremendous for the students, faculty and staff of Montana State University to honor Morton H. Meyerson with an honorary degree at MSU's Spring 2025 commencement ceremony. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,



Waded Cruzado  
President