

March 13, 2025

ITEM 217-2701-R0325

Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emerita of Educational Theory and Practice upon Dr. Susan Gregory; Montana State University Billings

THAT

Upon the retirement of Dr. Susan Gregory from the faculty of Montana State University Billings, the faculty of the Department of Educational Theory and Practice extends its appreciation for her years of dedication and meritorious service to the University, city of Billings, and state of Montana. In recognition of her selfless service, we recommend that the rank of Professor Emerita of Educational Theory and Practice be conferred on Dr. Susan Gregory by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

EXPLANATION

Dr. Gregory holds a Ph.D. from the University of Connecticut. She has had an extensive career in the field of special education, having worked as a special education teacher and a community service provider. She has been a faculty member at MSU Billings since 1990 and was promoted to the rank of Full Professor in 2009.

As a faculty member, Dr. Gregory has taught a wide range of courses in special education and early childhood at the graduate and undergraduate levels. Dr. Gregory works to build meaningful relationships with students while maintaining a high level of rigor within her classes. She has received consistently high reviews for her teaching and serves as a mentor for several junior faculty members. Dr. Gregory also maintains a robust advising load.

Dr. Gregory's research interests focus on special education teachers, particularly those in rural areas, as well as gaining understanding of the unique dynamics of families with children who have disabilities. She has published work in fifteen peer-reviewed publications and two book chapters. Dr. Gregory has received an annual grant, totaling over \$3 million, from the Office of Public Instruction (OPI), since 2008. This grant has benefited MSU Billings and hundreds of special education teachers in rural Montana. Dr. Gregory presents regularly at the international, national, and state levels, including several conference presentations in the United Kingdom and Scotland.

Dr. Gregory's service includes work on the OPI Chapter 58 Standards Committee, the OPI Review Committee for the Special Education Praxis, and the Montana Higher Education Consortium. She currently serves on the Academic Senate and has served on the University Rank and Tenure Committee and on several DRTC Committees. Dr. Gregory has played a significant role in accreditation efforts, has served on countless search committees, and as advisor for the Student Council for Exceptional Children, a role she held for eighteen years. She has also served as the program lead for the special education program for over a decade and was co-department chair. She is the recipient of the 1994 YMCA's Salute to Women award.

For these and other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer upon Dr. Susan Gregory the rank of Professor Emerita of Educational Theory and Practice, Montana State University Billings and wishes her well for many years into the future.

ATTACHMENTS

None