

November 20-21, 2025

ITEM 221-1001-R1125

Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of the School of Public and Community Health Sciences on Dr. Blakely Brown; University of Montana-Missoula

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Dr. Blakely Brown from the faculty of the University of Montana, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for her 23 years of dedicated and valued service to the University and the State of Montana by recommending that the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon her by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

EXPLANATION

Dr. Blakely Brown earned her Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota and joined the Department of Health and Human Performance (HHP) in 2002. She joined the School of Public and Community Health Sciences (SPCHS) in 2018. Professor Brown rose rapidly to the rank of Associate Professor and then Professor. She served as Interim Director of Interdisciplinary Studies in the Graduate School for two years.

Professor Brown was a very successful teacher. She was well-known for inspiring hundreds of undergraduate students to improve their knowledge of healthy dietary intake and physical activity behaviors in her popular Basic Human Nutrition course. She also developed and taught a graduate-level course, Community Based Participatory Research for Health. This course stimulated strong interest in public and community health graduate students in gaining knowledge and skills to pursue academic-community partnerships that bring community voice to co-designing behavioral health programs that are contextually and culturally relevant for their peoples. She served as Director of Graduate Studies for three years, and as Director of the MPH-Community Health and Prevention Sciences program for three years. Professor Brown supervised many undergraduate internship experiences, graduate theses and dissertations. She earned strong teaching evaluations from her students and was consistently sought out to mentor Native American undergraduate and graduate students pursuing degrees in public and community health.

Professor Brown's research and scholarship activities were highly collaborative and engaged Native, non-Native and Indigenous students and community members of all levels of training to implement and sustain community-based health promotion projects. Professor Brown was among the most productive faculty in HHP and SPCHS regarding research. She completed 25 research awards. Funding agencies for these awards included the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, the United States Department of Agriculture, New Zealand Health Research Council, New Zealand Marsden Foundation, the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Professor Brown received the prestigious Mountain West CTR-IN Pilot Grantee Award in 2017. Professor Brown has published over forty-five articles in peer-reviewed journals on her research regarding childhood obesity prevention and behavioral health promotion in underserved communities – specifically rural, Native American and Indigenous communities, and on research regarding Native American student and faculty academic success. She gave several invited lectures at national and international venues, and paper or poster presentations at local and national scientific conferences.

During her tenure at the University of Montana, Professor Brown devoted significant time and energy in developing and implementing a 2+2 Public Health B.S. degree program with the University of Montana and Salish Kootenai College. Professor Brown's efforts in developing the degree program resulted in obtaining

approval from the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities and institutionalizing a Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Montana and Salish Kootenai College for the program.

Professor Brown played an important service role on campus and in the Missoula community, in addition to her contributions in the areas of teaching and research. She was heavily involved in the UM Diversity Advisory Council serving as a member for eight years and Co-Chair for two years. She also served on the UM Diversity Strategic Planning Committee, the Academic Strategic Planning Committee and the Institutional Review Board. In honoring her service to the campus community and students, Professor Brown received the University of Montana Nancy Borgmann Diversity Award and two Faculty Appreciation Awards. Professor Brown devoted her time to improving urban Indian Health Organizations by serving as a member and secretary on the Missoula All Nations Health Center's Board of Directors for six years. She also played a vital role in promoting the food access work of the Missoula Community Food and Agriculture Coalition by serving as a member and co-chair on its' Board of Directors for ten years.

The School of Public and Community Health Sciences is pleased to nominate Professor Blakely Brown for Emeritus status.

ATTACHMENTS

None