

November 20-21, 2025

ITEM 221-2004-R1125

Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Soil and Environmental Biology upon Timothy McDermott; Montana State University

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Dr. Timothy McDermott from the College of Agriculture at Montana State University, the Board of Regents wishes to express its appreciation for their service to the University, the Montana University System, and the people of the State of Montana.

EXPLANATION

Dr. Timothy McDermott earned his B.S. (Soil Science, highest distinction) in 1982 from the University of Nebraska, M.S. (Soil Science/Soil Microbiology) in 1985 from the University of Minnesota, and Ph.D. (Soil Science/Soil Microbiology) in 1989 from the University of Minnesota.

From 1994-99, he was an Assistant Professor of Soil Microbiology in the Department of Plant, Soil, & Environmental Science at Montana State University. While in this role, he was also an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Microbiology at MSU and Co-Founder of the Thermal Biology Institute. He was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor in 2000. From 1999-2002, he was Co-Director of the Thermal Biology Institute. Dr. McDermott was promoted to professor in 2006.

Dr. McDermott's record since arriving at MSU in 1987 as Assistant Professor of Soil & Environmental Microbiology shows that he has admirably provided value to the university for 31 years. He has distinguished himself in several areas, including microbial phosphorus metabolism, microbial metabolism and diversity in thermal soils, microbial arsenic metabolism, and geomicrobiology. This expertise has resulted in more than 90 published articles, 1 book, and an impressive h-index of 52. He has been awarded numerous, diverse competitive grants totaling more than \$27 million. In addition to teaching hundreds of undergraduates and graduate students in his courses, he has trained more than 17 undergraduates in his laboratory, 15 graduate students, and mentored 11 postdoctoral research. He was also a key leader at the inception of the Thermal Biology Institute at MSU.

During his career, Dr. McDermott's teaching, scholarship, and service have been carried out in a professional manner, resulting in an academic career that clearly demonstrated substantial and sustained contributions to his discipline and the university.

For these and other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer upon Dr. Timothy McDermott the rank of Professor Emeritus of Soil and Environmental Biology at Montana State University and wishes him well for many years into the future.

ATTACHMENT

None