

November 20-21, 2025

ITEM 221-2005-R1125

Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Mathematics upon Jack Dockery; Montana State University

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Professor Jack Dockery from the faculty in the Department of Mathematical Sciences at Montana State University, the Board of Regents wishes to express its appreciation for his service to the University and the Montana University System.

EXPLANATION

Jack Dockery earned his B.S. degree in Mathematics from Montana State University in 1979, followed by an M.S. in Mathematics from Montana State University in 1982 and a Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of Utah in 1987. He was Assistant Professor of Mathematics at Utah State University and Visiting Professor at the Institute for Mathematics and its Applications at the University of Minnesota before joining the faculty of Montana State University as an Assistant Professor of Mathematics in 1989. He was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor in 1993 and fully promoted to the rank of Professor in 2001.

Throughout his career, Professor Dockery has exemplified excellence in research, teaching, and service. He is a mathematician whose research has influenced scholarship in mathematical biology, chemical reactions, traveling wave and standing pulse solutions in ecology and excitable media, reaction-diffusion models in porous media, singular perturbation methods, bifurcation methods, engineering applications, numerical methods, and dynamics of biofilms. He has a long record of grant funding from the National Science Foundation and other agencies. His research is characterized by his commitment to collaborations that include mathematicians alongside scientists and engineers, including his substantial involvement with the Center for Biofilm Engineering.

Professor Dockery is recognized as an outstanding teacher by his colleagues in the Department of Mathematical Sciences. He has always had a commitment to students and to teaching excellence, and over the last 36 years the Department and the University's students have benefited greatly from his instructional versatility. He was honored as the MSU Mortar Board Professor of the Month in February 1998 and as the Department's Stannard Award for Teaching Excellence winner in 2016. Over his career he mentored and advised hundreds of graduate students, including as dissertation advisor to four doctoral students.

Professor Dockery's dedication to Montana State University and its land grant mission has shone through for the entire 36 years of his career here. It would be overwhelming to list all of the ways he has contributed to the smooth functioning of the University. He is known as a voice that advocates for students, their learning, and their success. He has devoted the last decade to the instruction of calculus and its curriculum, spearheading the adoption of free textbooks in precalculus and across the calculus sequence. His wisdom benefitted the entire Department through his term as Associate Department Head in Mathematical Sciences from 2021–2025.

For these and other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer on Dr. Jack Dockery the rank of Professor Emeritus of Mathematics at Montana State University and wishes him well for many years in the future.

ATTACHMENTS

None