

March 2026

ITEM 223-1010-R0326

Request for Authorization to Award an Honorary Doctorate to Joe Whittinghill – University of Montana-Missoula

THAT

The University of Montana requests authorization from the Montana Board of Regents to award an Honorary Doctorate of Business to Joe Whittinghill.

EXPLANATION

During his tenure at Microsoft – which spanned from 1999 to 2024 – Joe Whittinghill held multiple leadership positions, including serving as the managing director of the Venture Integration mergers and acquisitions group, corporate vice president of talent, learning and insights, and chief talent and learning officer. His impact on Microsoft was profound, including the facilitation of more than 130 closed transactions that totaled billions of dollars and added tens of thousands of new employees to the company. A devoted UM alumnus and supporter, Mr. Whittinghill's dedication to his alma mater is equally impressive. In addition to serving as associate executive director of the UM Foundation early in his career, he has also served as the chair of both the UM Foundation Board of Trustees and UM Alumni Association and continues to be actively involved in the Leading OUT West workshop. Now retired, Mr. Whittinghill is a principal at Prickly Pear Unlimited and an independent director for the D.A. Davidson Companies and Gaia Ag PBC.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment #1: Nomination Packet