

March 2026

**ITEM 223-1011-R0326**

**Request for Authorization to Award an Honorary Doctorate to Debra Magpie Earling – University of Montana-Missoula**

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**THAT**

The University of Montana requests authorization from the Montana Board of Regents to award an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters to Debra Magpie Earling.

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**EXPLANATION**

The author of five books, including the widely celebrated and critically acclaimed novels *Perma Red* and *The Lost Journals of Sacajawea*, Debra Magpie Earling is described by one nominator as “an educator, mentor, role model, and artistic ambassador and advocate for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribes of the Flathead Nation.” Her many awards and honors include receiving the Guggenheim Fellowship, Montana Governor’s Artist Award, a National Endowment of the Arts Literary Fellowship, and being selected to judge the PEN/Faulkner Award in Fiction and the National Book Award. Now a Professor Emerita of the University of Montana, Debra Magpie Earling taught Creative Writing and Native American Studies for more than thirty years and continues to serve as a dedicated mentor to her former students.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment #1: Nomination Packet