

March 12, 2026

ITEM 223-1503-R0326

Request for Authorization to Award an Honorary Doctor of Science to Ryan M. Lance; Montana Technological University

THAT

In recognition of many career achievements and the distinction brought to the Montana University System, the Montana Board of Regents grant Montana Technological University the authority to confer an Honorary Doctor of Science to Ryan M. Lance.

EXPLANATION

Ryan M. Lance is a graduate of Great Falls High School and earned a petroleum engineering degree from Montana Tech in 1984. He spent summers on his family's farm in Wolf Point and funded his education by working as a roughneck on oil rigs. He frequently shares his story of grit and determination as a hallmark of a Montana Tech degree.

Together with his wife, Lisa, Ryan has made historic investments in Montana Tech – including the most significant philanthropic gift in the university's history. This landmark contribution is already redefining the university's future. Two vital elements of this investment – the Lance Scholars Program and the Lance Energy Chair- have advanced the university's core strategic priorities and opened doors of opportunity for Montana's students and fostered world-class faculty excellence in energy research and education.

Beyond his extraordinary philanthropy, Lance remains a constant, hands-on presence at Montana Tech. He frequently returns to campus to engage with students, share his insights on leadership and ethics, and model the values that define Montana Tech.

Lance is widely regarded as one of the most respected and visionary leaders in the global energy industry. Since becoming Chairman and CEO of ConocoPhillips in 2012, he has guided one of the world's largest independent exploration and production companies through an era defined by energy transition, technological transformation, and geopolitical volatility.

Under his leadership, ConocoPhillips has emerged as a model for responsible resource development and environmental stewardship – balancing operational excellence with a long-term vision for sustainability, workforce development, and community engagement. Lance has been a leading national voice in shaping energy policy, advocating for innovation-driven approaches that reconcile energy security, carbon management, and economic growth.

Lance's professional achievements, moral leadership, and unwavering dedication to the advancement of education, innovation, and opportunity make him an exemplary candidate for this Honorary Doctor of Science from Montana Technological University.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment #1: Nomination Packet