

March 12, 2026

**ITEM 223-1504-R0326**

**Request for Authorization to Award an Honorary Doctor of Science to David J. Lesar; Montana Technological University**

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**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 David J. Lesar.

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**EXPLANATION**

David J. Lesar, longtime chairman and CEO of Halliburton, interim CEO and Board Member for Health Care Service Corporation, President and CEO of CenterPoint Energy and decades long supporter of Montana Technological University has shown unwavering commitment to our students, faculty, and staff while strengthening our national reputation.

While Lesar was at Halliburton, he led investments by Halliburton to Montana Tech for construction of the Natural Resources Research Center. In honor of his parents, Dave and his wife, Sherry established the Stan and Joyce Lesar Professorship, which was used to support programming and research focused on enhancing Montana Tech's ability to responsibly develop and use natural resources.

Later, Dave and Sherry helped fund and develop the Lesar Family Nursing Simulation Center, the Sherry Lesar School of Nursing, and most recently provide funding for additional permanent faculty to expand the nursing program. The Sherry Lesar School of Nursing continues to rank as the #1 nursing program in Montana and recently earned the International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning (INACSL) endorsement for Healthcare Simulation Standards of Best Practice, distinguishing it as the only program in Montana to earn this designation, and one of only 40 such INACSL endorsements world wide. This success is in no small part due to Dave and Sherry Lesar's dedication, vision and generosity.

Across every discipline – from energy and infrastructure to nursing and research – Mr. Lesar has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the future of Montana. His work has created a powerful bridge between innovation and service, ensuring the state remains at the forefront of both technological progress and community health.

David Lesar's leadership exemplifies the core values at the heart of Montana Technological University: grit, innovation, integrity, and public service. His influence across the energy and healthcare sectors has not only strengthened the industries that define our future but has also fundamentally improved lives.

Through his enduring personal and philanthropic partnership, Mr. Lesar has empowered our students and faculty to reach new heights in science, technology, engineering, math, and healthcare – advancing our mission and reinforcing Montan Tech's standing as the state's designated STEM university. These characteristics make Dave Lesar an ideal candidate for this Honorary Doctorate of Science from Montana Technological University.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment #1: Nomination Packet