

March 12, 2026

ITEM 223-2001-R0326

Request for Authorization to Award an Honorary Doctorate to Rolf and Jaynee Groseth; Montana State University

THAT

In recognition of many career achievements and the distinction brought to the Montana University System, the Board of Regents grants Montana State University the authority to confer an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters to Rolf and Jaynee Groseth.

EXPLANATION

Rolf and Jaynee Groseth's careers are a testament to the power of service, leadership, and community-building. Rolf's journey began with distinguished academic and military service, followed by a remarkable career at MSU as Dean of Students, Vice Provost, System Coordinator, Vice President for Intercampus Affairs, Interim Chancellor at MSU Northern, and Chancellor at MSU Billings. His leadership extended beyond campus, shaping programs like Leadership Montana and supporting organizations such as the Bozeman Film Festival, Student Assistance Foundation, and Friends of Public Television. Rolf's commitment to higher education and student success has been unwavering, and his vision has strengthened the Montana University System as a whole.

Jaynee's impact is equally profound. A proud MSU alumna, she served as Director of Admissions, founded the AdvoCat Student Tour Guide program, and established Montana's Post-Secondary Opportunities Council. As Director of Alumni Affairs and President of the MSU Alumni Association, Jaynee created lasting traditions, including the Alumni Plaza and Legacy Lounge, and led efforts to connect and celebrate MSU's alumni across generations. Her leadership in student and parent orientation, support for Native American alumni, and involvement in community organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce and United Way has enriched the lives of countless individuals. Jaynee was recognized as one of the 125 Extraordinary Ordinary Women of Montana State University during the university's 125th Anniversary.

Together, Rolf and Jaynee have been pillars of the MSU community - mentors, role models, and tireless advocates for students, faculty, staff, and alumni. They have established scholarship endowments at both MSU and MSU Billings, ensuring access to opportunity for future generations. Their leadership and generosity have inspired programs such as the AdvoCats, Awards for Excellence, Bringing the U to You, and the Cat/Griz satellite party network, all of which have strengthened MSU's reputation and community engagement.

The Groseths' influence extends far beyond campus. They have been honored by Native American communities, supported local events and organizations, and built bridges across Montana through their service and example. Their legacy is one of dedication, inclusiveness, and a genuine love for MSU.

What truly sets Rolf and Jaynee apart is the multiplier effect of their efforts. Their initiatives not only transformed the student experience but also fostered a culture of engagement, philanthropy, and pride that continues to benefit MSU and the state. Their mentorship has shaped the careers of countless professionals in higher education, and their presence at university events-always in Blue and Gold, embodies the spirit and tradition of Montana State.

Awarding a joint Honorary Doctorate to Rolf and Jaynee Groseth would be a fitting tribute to their extraordinary contributions and lifelong commitment to MSU. Their leadership, vision, and generosity have shaped the university's past, present, and future, and their example will continue to inspire generations to come.

For these and other extraordinary contributions, the Board of Regents is pleased to confer an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters at Montana State University upon Rolf and Jaynee Groseth and wishes them well for many years in the future.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment #1: Letter of Nomination from President Tessman