



December 17, 2025

Commissioner Clayton Christian
Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education
Montana University System
560 N. Park Avenue
Helena, MT 59601

Dear Commissioner Christian,

This is a request for the Montana University System Board of Regents to confirm the recommendation of an honorary degree to Rolf & Jaynee Groseth, to be awarded at Montana State University's (MSU) commencement ceremony in the Spring 2026. The Groseth's were recommended by the MSU Honorary Degree Committee and Faculty Senate leadership voted in favor of this honorary degree recommendation.

Rolf & Jaynee Groseth (Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters):

Rolf and Jaynee'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.

Jayne'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 have 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.

Office of the President

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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 Montana State University.

What truly sets Rolf and Jaynee apart is the multiplier effect of their efforts. As noted by colleagues and former students, their initiatives have not only transformed the student experience but have 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.

Sincerely,



Brock F. Tessman
President