

ITEM: 142-1010-R0309

**Senior Fellow Emeritus of the Carroll and Nancy Fields O'Connor Center for the Rocky Mountain West: Pat Williams; The University of Montana–Missoula**

**THAT:**

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Pat Williams from the O'Connor Center for the Rocky Mountain West of The University of Montana, the faculty, the Provost and the Office for Academic Affairs, and the President wish to express their appreciation for his years of dedicated and valued service to The University of Montana and the State of Montana by recommending that the rank of Senior Fellow Emeritus be conferred upon him by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

**EXPLANATION:**

Pat Williams was raised in Butte, Montana. He attended The University of Montana in Missoula and William Jewel College, Liberty, Missouri, and earned a B.A. in Business Administration from the University of Denver in 1961. He earned a B.A. in Education from The University of Montana Western (formerly Western Montana College). He was a member of the Colorado and Montana National Guard from 1961-1969 and a teacher in Butte, Montana from 1963-1969.

Launching his career in politics, Williams was elected to the Montana House of Representatives in District 23 of Silver Bow County in 1966 and reelected in 1968. From 1969-71 he served as the executive assistant to Representative John Melcher. He was a member of the Governor's Employment and Training Council from 1972-78 and held a seat on the Montana Reapportionment Commission from 1972-73. In 1978, staging one of Montana's largest door-to-door campaigns and winning 57% of the vote, Williams was elected to the 96<sup>th</sup> Congress. He served nine terms as Montana's Congressman from 1979-1993. During his tenure with the House, Williams was a member of the committees on House Budget; Interior and Agriculture; Natural Resources; and Education and Labor on which he chaired the committees on Postsecondary Education and Labor-Management. As Deputy Whip, Congressman Williams had legislative process jurisdiction over the many congressional bills affecting workplace legislation such as Minimum Wage and Family and Medical leave. He played a fundamental role in the preservation of the Wilderness Areas, seeking to protect and safeguard current wilderness from the Wilderness Act of 1964 and working ardently to extend the Act to include National Forest lands. He also campaigned on higher taxes for large corporations and cutting defense spending to decrease the federal deficit. When Williams left Congress he was serving the most populated Congressional District in the United States.

In 1997, Williams returned to Montana and was appointed Senior Fellow and Regional Policy associate to the Carroll and Nancy Fields O'Connor Center for the Rocky Mountain West at The University of Montana. He has taught courses in environmental studies, history, and political science.

In addition to other projects and organizations in the State, he serves on the Boards of the Directors for the National Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges, the National Association of Job Corps, and the President's Advisory Commission for Tribal Colleges. Williams served a period on the board of directors of the Student Loan Marketing Association. He is the regional director at Western Progress, a non-profit organization focused on advancing progressive policy solutions across the Rocky Mountain Region.

Williams was honored in 2001 as the Walters Capps Memorial Lecturer for the National Federation of State Humanities Councils. He regularly writes columns for newspapers around the Rocky Mountain West.

For his pledge to the common good, his commitment to public service, and his dedication to education, the President, the Provost and the Office for Academic Affairs, and the O'Connor Center for the Rocky Mountain West are honored to recommend Senior Fellow Pat Williams for Emeritus status. With this recommendation go sincere thanks for 30 years of invaluable service to the State of Montana and The University of Montana–Missoula. Congratulations and best wishes for the future.