

May 28-29, 2009

ITEM 143-2002-R0509

Professor Emeritus of Physics: Gerald F. Wheeler;
Montana State University-Bozeman

THAT:

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Dr. Gerald F. Wheeler from the faculty of Montana State University, the Board of Regents wishes to express its appreciation for his service to the University, the Montana University System, and the people of the State of Montana.

EXPLANATION:

Dr. Wheeler received a B.S. in Science Education from Boston University in 1963. He taught high school physics and chemistry for 3 years, and began graduate work at SUNY-Stony Brook in 1967. Dr. Wheeler received the M.A. in Physics (1969) and Ph.D. in Experimental Nuclear Physics from SUNY-Stony Brook in 1972.

After two years as a Research Assistant at Stony Brook, Dr. Wheeler was hired as Assistant Professor of Physics and Science Education at Temple University. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1974. In 1981 Dr. Wheeler joined the faculty at Montana State University as Associate Professor of Physics, and was promoted to professor in 1988. During his years at MSU-Bozeman, Dr. Wheeler also served as Director of the Science/Math Resource Center and continued his role as consultant for Children's TV Workshop, and a variety of national advisory committees for improving science education and science outreach to the public.

Dr. Wheeler has served as PI or co-PI on over \$20 million of grants, primarily from the National Science Foundation, for projects to enhance primary and secondary education in the State of Montana, and to develop a National Teachers Enhancement Network. He has authored or co-authored 5 books, 4 book chapters, more than 20 publications, and several television shows. Dr. Wheeler's contributions to science education have been acknowledged with several awards and honors over the past years, including: the Lindbach Teaching Award (Temple University), Distinguished Service Citation from the American Association of Physics Teachers, a Fellow of W.K. Kellogg Foundation (1982), the Milliken Award for "outstanding innovative work in physics education" from AAPT, the Burlington Northern Teaching Award (MSU), Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science,

Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science (Keene State College), Faraday Award for Science Communication from the Discovery Channel, and the Leadership in Education Award from the Keystone Center.

For these and other contributions the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer upon Gerald F. Wheeler the rank of Professor Emeritus of Physics at Montana State University and wishes him well for many years in the future.