

November 19-20, 2009

ITEM 145-1004-R1109

**Approval to Change the Name for The University of Montana College of Education and Health Sciences to The Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Health Sciences.**

**THAT:**

In accordance with Board of Regents Policy 218, Institutional Organization, and following previous presentation to the Board of Regents as an informational item and on the recommendation of the Commissioner of Higher Education, the Board of Regents hereby authorizes The University of Montana–Missoula to change the name of the College of Education and Human Sciences to The Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences.

**EXPLANATION:**

In recognition of the contributions made to the College of Education and Health Sciences on the campus of The University of Montana through the service and philanthropy of Phyllis J. Washington, The University of Montana–Missoula seeks to name the College in her honor.

The University proposes this name change to honor a person who has contributed in many ways to education in the State of Montana and across the country. Washington has served for years as a member of the College Advisory Committee and has gone beyond merely attending meetings. With her husband, she has contributed scholarships annually to assist Montana students for more than two decades. Most recently, in cooperation with the Horatio Alger Society, the Washingtons contribute roughly \$1 million annually to provide scholarships to Montana resident students who have overcome some significant obstacles in their lives prior to deciding on college. In fact, the Washingtons fund the entire program for the State of Montana. In addition, they provide other scholarships totaling an additional \$100,000 annually. Mrs. Washington assisted the former School, now the College of Education, in developing educational materials for public schools detailing the work and accomplishments of national and state leaders, providing \$1 million dollars for this work. As the latest of many philanthropic efforts, the Washingtons, with the impetus provided by Mrs. Washington, provided the majority of the funding – some \$12 million – to establish the Washington Education Center within the College. With the advanced information technology infrastructure within the Center, the College will have the capability to reach all the public schools across the State of Montana. For these reasons, the University proposes the name change. The proposal has the endorsement of the College of Education and Human Sciences faculty and administration, the unanimous approval of the Faculty Senate, and the support of the University Provost and President.

