

May 23-24, 2013

ITEM 159-2001-R0513

Authorization to Confer the Title of Associate Professor Emerita of Educational Leadership upon Dr. Joanne L. Erickson; Montana State University-Bozeman

THAT

On the retirement of Dr. Joanne L. Erickson from the faculty of Montana State University, the Board of Regents wishes to express its appreciation for her service to the University, the Montana University System, and the people of the State of Montana.

EXPLANATION

Dr. Erickson received her BS and MS degrees in Education from MSU-Northern, and her Ed.D. degree in Educational Leadership from MSU-Bozeman. She taught in the public schools of Havre and Chinook for eight years, then at Fort Belknap Community College (1979-1981). From 1981-1997 she worked in educational administration in Havre Public Schools, as Director of Education (Assistant Superintendent), Principal, Director of Curriculum, Director of Federal Projects, and Director of Adult & Community Education. During that time she was also an Adjunct Professor of Education at Montana State University Northern (1990-1998), and served as Division Administrator, Lobbyist, and personal staff to Nancy Keenan, Superintendent of Public Instruction (1997-1998).

Dr. Erickson was hired by Montana State University-Bozeman as Associate Professor of Educational Leadership (1998-2013). Even before receiving tenure she became the Program Leader for Educational Leadership. Under her leadership the program's curriculum underwent significant revision, instruction was organized around a cohort model, summer sessions were reconfigured, and programs were readied for distance delivery. These changes resulted in the tripling of enrollments, and a significant expansion of the relevance and prestige of Montana State University-Bozeman in the field of K-12 Educational Leadership.

Dr. Erickson also served for one year as Department Head, and has served her College as the Director of its Office of Funded Research. In this role, funded research in the College of Education, Health, and Human Development grew from approximately \$6 million to \$17 million, and faculty engagement in funded research grew from fewer than 50% to 85% of faculty.

During her time at MSU-Bozeman, Dr. Erickson was involved in fifteen grant funded initiatives, many at the state Office of Public Instruction, including the state's federally funded School-to-Work initiative, the federally funded GEAR-UP Program, and systemic reforms in the preparation programs for Educational Leadership, funded by the Wallace Foundation and Wallace Readers' Digest.

Of particular significance has been her role as Principle Investigator and Program Director for the federally funded Indian Leadership Education and Development (I-LEAD) Programs. Two successful iterations of this initiative under her direction trained, certified, and placed over 70 Native American school leaders in schools serving Native American children throughout the Northwest. The placement of Native American school leaders has supported critical school improvement in schools on or near Indian Reservations in Montana and has gained state, national and international recognition as a model program. Funding for a third I-LEAD Program subsequent to her retirement has recently been secured, thus extending the legacy of her ground-breaking efforts.

Her research efforts accounted for \$3.6 million of grant funding over the span of her career at MSU, in addition to her contributions toward federally funded projects at the Office of Public Instruction.

Dr. Erickson has been an active participant in regional, national, and international meetings and conferences aimed at systemic improvement of public schooling, curriculum, and educational leadership. She is credited with thirty-five regional, national or international presentations, refereed or invited, often with her graduate students as co-presenters. She has contributed to four books or monographs, plus several journal articles and contributions to conference proceedings.

In addition to extensive departmental, college, and university service, Dr. Erickson has served the State of Montana and her profession in a variety of roles, including the following:

- Member, Board of Directors of the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory.
- Commissioner to the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools (two 3-year terms).
- Commissioner for the Montana Association of Accredited Schools.
- Chair of statewide taskforce to review Professional Preparation Standards for School Leaders (Chapter 57); member of statewide advisory panel of Professional Educator Preparation Standards and Procedures. (Appointed by the Board of Public Education and Office of Public Instruction).
- Member, Chapter 57 Certification Review Committee in 2002 and 2007.
- President of the Montana Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development and Board of Directors of the International Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development.
- Assisted the Montana Office of Public Instruction with the “Montana Race to the Top” application in 2010. Her contributions were recognized by Superintendent Denise Juneau.
- She also received recognition from the Board of Public Education President, Dr. Kirk Miller, for outstanding contributions to schools in Montana.

Dr. Erickson received the Cox Family Award for Creative Scholarship and Teaching, 2012; the Montana Rural Education Association Outstanding Leadership Award, 2011; Outstanding Researcher in the Department of Education, 2008; and the Montana State University Charles and Nora Wiley Faculty Award for Meritorious Research, 2004. She was also nominated for the Cox Faculty Award for Creative Scholarship and Teaching 2009; for the Phi Kappa Phi Outstanding Teacher Award, 2006; and for the Presidential Teaching Award, 2005.

For these and other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer upon Dr. Joanne L. Erickson the rank of Associate Professor Emerita of Educational Leadership at Montana State University and wishes her well for many years in the future.

ATTACHMENTS