

March 6-7, 2014

**ITEM 162-2001-R0314**

**Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Film and Photography on Joel B. Jahnke, Montana State University**

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**THAT**

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Joel B. Jahnke from 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.

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**EXPLANATION**

Professor Jahnke served for thirty-seven years as the leading professor of theater at Montana State University. For thirty-three of those years, he also served as artistic director of Montana Shakespeare in the Parks (MSIP). As a professor, scholar, actor, director, and theater administrator, Professor Jahnke exhibited excellence in all his work and exceeded expectations so many times that the exceptional became the standard.

Professor Jahnke began as a professor of production design and then taught directing, acting, and general stagecraft. He was recognized as one of the leading figures in theater in the Northwest and nationally and established Montana State University as an excellent institution for students seeking future careers in either theater or film or both.

As head of MSIP, Professor Jahnke increased both the program's ambitions and its resources so that, at the time of his retirement, the forty-year-old organization had become one of the major public outreach activities of the University. While most of the other regional Shakespeare troupes are centered in one town, MSIP travels thousands of miles each year to perform in both large and small communities throughout Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Eastern Washington, and North Dakota. Professor Jahnke's tireless efforts made the annual summer visits of the MSIP a much-anticipated event in communities throughout the region. MSIP also added Shakespeare in the Schools so that future generations will appreciate Shakespeare and other classic playwrights.

Professor Jahnke has made a major impact on several generations of Montana State University students. He has also enlightened tens of thousands of adults and children throughout the Northwest.

For these and other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer upon Joel B. Jahnke the rank of Professor Emeritus of Film and Photography at Montana State University, and wishes him well for many years in the future.

**ATTACHMENTS**

None