

November 19-20, 2015

ITEM 169-2001-R1115

**Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Nursing on Carolyn Wenger;  
Montana State University**

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**THAT**

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Assistant Professor Carolyn Wenger from the faculty of Montana State University, the faculty wishes to extend its appreciation for her 35 years of dedicated and valued service to the University, the College of Nursing, and the State of Montana by recommending the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred on her by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

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**EXPLANATION**

Professor Carolyn Wenger earned her baccalaureate in nursing degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo (1974) and her master's degree in public health nursing from Case Western University (1977). She was awarded tenure at Montana State University in 1986.

Professor Wenger served on the Billings campus of the College of Nursing; her primary responsibilities were in the areas of teaching and service. Her area of expertise and passion was public health and she felt strongly that future nurses needed to be well prepared in that area. Without a doubt, she was the college's strongest advocate for public health and her knowledge was evident as she developed new and unique clinical learning experiences that often focused on serving vulnerable populations including the homeless, young families, school children, the migrant population, the incarcerated, and young adult women. For over twenty years, Carolyn facilitated weekly student learning experiences at the Montana Rescue Mission in Billings. Her student evaluations were consistently objectively strong and subjective comments were very different from other student comments, offering praise for Carolyn's supportive approach and thoughtful insights into their learning experiences.

Professor Wenger's service accomplishments were broad and varied. She served in leadership roles in a multitude of professional organizations, most recently as a member of the Yellowstone City-County Board of Health. She was committed to designing service learning experiences for undergraduate and graduate nursing students. That commitment was recognized by Montana State University in 2013 when she received the initial President's Award for Excellence in Service Learning. Upon receipt of that award, the president stated: *"It is our distinct honor to congratulate you on your outstanding and exemplary commitment to service learning. Your efforts in designing a course containing strong service learning components, sustaining a reciprocal, long-term community partnership, and creating meaningful opportunities for students to deepen their understanding of the course content as well as their roles in the community establishes you as an outstanding leader among your peers. This award recognizes you as this year's most innovative faculty member in regards to engaging students in service learning. Your*

*work is a model of the four elements the Service Learning Advisory Board has determined as service learning best practices: identifying learning objectives, evaluating and assessing student learning, structuring reflection activities, and addressing a critical community need.”* She co-lead the college sponsored service learning public health experience to the Dominican Republic.

Although no formal expectations were placed on Professor Wenger for research, she was active as a scholar. Her scholarly presentations at the local and national levels focused on issues of public health most specifically on children at risk in rural settings. Her publications also reflected her passion for public health with an emphasis on vulnerable populations.

One of Professor Wenger’s greatest legacies in the College of Nursing is the leadership she provided in the development of the doctor of nursing practice (DNP) program. She served as chair of the graduate academic curriculum committee in the college for four years as the DNP curriculum was developed and ultimately approved by the faculty. Her low key, determined, consistent leadership combined with keen intellect and long term respect from faculty throughout the college resulted in the development and implementation of that program.

For these and numerous other contributions, the faculty of the College of Nursing is pleased to nominate Professor Carolyn Wenger for the rank of Professor Emeritus of Nursing at Montana State University.

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## **ATTACHMENTS**

No Attachment