

**MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY**

COMMEMORATIVE TRIBUTES COMMITTEE ACTION ITEM

May 2, 2016

TITLE: **PROPOSAL FOR NAMING SCHOOL OF COMPUTING**

SPONSOR: Computer Science Department College of Engineering



Department Head John Paxton

Dean Brett Gunnink

ACTION: By majority vote or consensus, the Commemorative Tributes Committee provides the University President with affirmation that the Montana State School of Computing should be named the Gianforte School of Computing, in honor of Greg and Susan Gianforte.

EXPLANATION: WHEREAS, Greg and Susan Gianforte are recognized Leaders in the Montana high tech business community;

WHEREAS, in 2007, Mr. Gianforte was recognized by Montana State University with an Honorary Doctorate Degree in Computer Science;


WHEREAS, the Gianforte's cumulative past donations and future commitments to Montana State University approach \$10 million including a May 2016 pledge of \$8 million;

WHEREAS, \$5 million of this pledge will create an endowment that will support the School of Computing; \$2 million of this pledge will support the South Campus Initiative which includes the construction of a new 110,000 square foot state-of-the-art laboratory and classroom facility; and \$1 million of the pledge will provide current funds support for the School of Computing;


WHEREAS, the Gianforte's provided \$2 million in support from 2003 to 2015 that enabled the Computer Science Department to boost enrollments, award scholarships and provide competitive start-up packages to six new faculty members;

WHEREAS, naming the Gianforte School of Computing is consistent with criteria established in the Commemorative Tributes Policy and honors Greg and Susan Gianforte's extraordinary contributions to the Computer Science Department;

THEREFORE the Commemorative Tributes Committee recommends the University President support the naming of the Gianforte School of Computing.

  
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Christopher D. Murray  
Commemorative Tributes Committee, Chair

5-2-16  
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Date

  
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President

May 11, 2016  
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Date