

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

COMMEMORATIVE TRIBUTES COMMITTEE ACTION ITEM

September 21, 2017

TITLE: PROPOSAL FOR NAMING COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

SPONSOR: College of Engineering



Dean Brett Gunnink

ACTION: By majority vote or consensus, the Commemorative Tributes Committee provides the University President with affirmation that the Montana State College of Engineering should be named the Norm Asbjornson College of Engineering, in honor of Norm Asbjornson.

EXPLANATION: WHEREAS, in 1960, Norm Asbjornson earned the degree Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Montana State College;

WHEREAS, IN 2003, Asbjornson was recognized by the Montana State University Foundation with an Excellence in Philanthropy Award;

WHEREAS, in 2004, Asbjornson was recognized by Montana State University with an Honorary Doctorate Degree in Engineering;

WHEREAS, Asbjornson is a recognized leader in HVAC manufacturing worldwide;

WHEREAS, Asbjornson's company AAON has hired many Montana State College of Engineering graduates;

WHEREAS, Asbjornson has served the College of Engineering as a member of the College of Engineering Advisory Council for nearly two decades, and served two terms on the Montana State Alumni Foundation as a member of its Board of Governors;

WHEREAS, Asbjornson's cumulative donations to and support of Montana State University exceed \$55 million dollars;

WHEREAS, Asbjornson's \$50 million pledge launched the \$70 million South Campus Initiative which includes the construction of a new 110,000 square feet state-of-the-art laboratory and classroom facility named Norm Asbjornson Hall;

WHEREAS, Asbjornson's company AAON has funded \$2 million in research grants to Montana State's College of Engineering;

WHEREAS, Asbjornson's \$2 million gift in support of the first endowed chair in the Montana State College of Agriculture, resulted in the establishment of the Winifred Asbjornson Plant Science Chair;

WHEREAS, Asbjornson's gift of \$1 million dollars established the Asbjornson University Scholar Permanent Endowment to fund scholarships for incoming

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freshman who are graduates of Montana high schools with a total enrollment of 100 students or less;

WHEREAS, Asbjornson gifts established an endowed scholarship for graduates of Winifred High School who attend Montana State and an endowment to develop distance learning programs for rural Montana schools, and

WHEREAS, naming the Norm Asbjornson College of Engineering is consistent with criteria established in the Commemorative Tributes Policy and honors Norm Asbjornson's many extraordinary contributions to the College of Engineering and to Montana State University;

THEREFORE, the Commemorative Tributes Committee recommends the University President support the naming of the Norm Asbjornson College of Engineering.



Christopher D. Murray
Commemorative Tributes Committee, Chair

10-5-17

Date



Waded Cruzado
President

Oct 6, 2017

Date