

May 22-23, 2019

ITEM 183-1503-R0519

**Request for authorization to confer the title of Chancellor Emeritus on Donald M. Blackketter –
Montana Technological University**

THAT

After eight years of distinguished service to the students, faculty, staff, and alumni of Montana Tech and to higher education in the State of Montana, the Montana Board of Regents confers upon Montana Tech Chancellor Donald M. Blackketter the title of *Chancellor Emeritus*.

EXPLANATION

Donald M. (Don) Blackketter has spent over 30 years in the academic arena as an engineering professor, researcher, and administrator at the Dean and CEO levels. Dr. Blackketter's academic journey began in Bozeman Montana where he eventually graduated from Bozeman Senior High School. After working construction for four years, Don enrolled at the University of Wyoming where he graduated with his bachelor's (1985), master's (1986), and PhD (1989) in Mechanical Engineering. Don joined the Mechanical Engineering Department at the University of Idaho in 1989 where he moved through the ranks of Assistant Professor to Professor and Dean of Engineering. In July 2011 Dr. Blackketter became the 11th Chief Executive Officer of Montana Tech.

Dr. Blackketter is the author of 28 journal publications, 18 Conference Presentations and Publications, 10 Technical Contract Reports, one textbook, multiple Op-Eds and invited seminars, co- or Principal Investigator on over \$12M of research grants, a Fulbright Scholar, and has been the graduate advisor and/or Committee Member for over 90 MS and PhD students. Don is a licensed Professional Engineer in Idaho and Montana.

As Chancellor of Montana Technological University

Dr. Blackketter's eight years as Chancellor at MTU have been transformational. During his tenure MTU has achieved Regent approval for a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), standalone programs in Mechanical and Civil Engineering, and MTU's first doctoral program in Material Science. Since the inception of the PhD program, which in reality started in the fall of 2014, MTU has celebrated six PhD graduates. Dr. Blackketter has overseen over \$40M of facility improvements. These infrastructure improvements largely driven by philanthropic support, have included artificial turf, the renovation of the Health Sciences building, the completion of the University Relations Center, the completion of the Natural Resource Research Center, and in 2019 the completion of the Student Success Center and a 166 bed Living and Learning Center. Together Don and Vicki have been highly engaged in the Butte community, MTU alumni, higher education in Montana, NAIA and Frontier Conference athletics, and in the daily lives of students, staff, and faculty.

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ATTACHMENTS

None.