

March 5-6, 2020

ITEM 187-1017-R0320

Request to Award Honorary Doctorate to Bonnie HeavyRunner – University of Montana

THAT

The University of Montana requests authorization from the Montana Board of Regents to award an honorary doctorate to Bonnie HeavyRunner.

EXPLANATION

One of thirteen children, Bonnie “Sim-Sin” HeavyRunner grew up in Browning on the Blackfeet Reservation. A two-time graduate of the University of Montana, HeavyRunner received an undergraduate degree in social work and a juris doctorate from the now-named Alexander Blewett III School of Law where she was the only American Indian law student in her class. Beyond her numerous and impressive accomplishments as a lawyer, educator, and civil rights advocate, HeavyRunner was the founding director of UM’s Native American Studies Department and a founding member of the UM American Indian Law program. Before her death in 1997 at age 46, HeavyRunner received many awards recognizing her unrelenting efforts to support American Indian communities, victims of domestic violence, and other disadvantaged groups.

ATTACHMENTS

None