

March 5-6, 2020

ITEM 187-2003-R0320

Request to Award Honorary Doctorate to Todd Garrison – Montana State University

THAT

In recognition of many career achievements and the distinction brought to the Montana University System as an alumni, the Board of Regents grants the Montana State University the authority to confer an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters to Todd Garrison.

EXPLANATION

Todd Garrison has dedicated his life to educating the citizens of Montana, especially K-12 teachers and administrators, as well as the nation, about the adverse effects of childhood trauma and the need to implement early interventions. In 2009, Mr. Garrison led the launch of Childwise Institute as its Executive Director with an overall mission of healing children who suffered from Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). As a Certified Adverse Childhood Experiences ACE Study Master Trainer, Todd has trained thousands of people across Montana in ACEs, toxic stress and resilience – including most school districts and many correctional officers working in Montana’s jails and prisons.

Under Todd’s leadership, Childwise Institute launched an initiative called Elevate Montana, which has become a grassroots movement across the entire state to elevate the well-being of children, families, and communities. Eleven communities have become Elevate Montana Affiliates, representing almost 35% of the state’s population.

In 2017, Todd was named Advocate of the Year by the Montana School Counselors Association, as well as the Citizen Leadership Award from HOPA Mountain, a Montana non-profit “investing in rural and tribal citizen leaders who are improving education, ecological health, and economic development.”

Under Todd’s leadership, Childwise Institute was one of only 14 organizations in the nation to receive a 2-year grant from Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (managed by the Health Federation of Philadelphia) to advance the work Todd started on ACEs back in 2012. Although Todd officially retired from Childwise Institute in April of 2017, he continues to train individuals from all walks of life in the areas of childhood trauma and adversity.

For these and his other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer on Mr. Todd Garrison the honorary doctorate of Humane Letters at Montana State University and wishes him well for many years in the future.

ATTACHMENTS

None