

November 19-20, 2020

ITEM 191-1006-R1120

Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus on Karen Kaufmann, University of Montana - Missoula

THAT

Upon the retirement of Karen Kaufmann from the faculty of the University of Montana, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for her 25 years of service to the University and the State of Montana by recommending that the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon her by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

EXPLANATION

Professor Karen Kaufmann was hired as an adjunct in 1993 and as a tenure-track Assistant Professor in 1999. She became an Associate Professor in 2002, received tenure in 2004 and was promoted to Full Professor in 2007. In addition, she was recognized with five Merit Awards over her time at the University of Montana and received the Faculty Service Learning Award from UM in 2005. Professor Kaufmann served as the Head of the Dance Program for 12 years and as the Director of the Creative Pulse Graduate program for eight years.

Over her tenure at UM, Professor Kaufmann continually graced UM with passion, talent, advocacy and innovative teaching. She developed an interest in arts integration before the term had been coined and is viewed as one of the national leaders in integrating dance in the K-5 curriculum and for developing how to teach our future dance educators. Professor Kaufmann is a passionate educator and artist and has served as a workshop presenter, professor, and choreographer while she also sat on multiple committees revising state standards for the arts in Montana. Tens of thousands of school-aged children viewed her choreography. For many young students it was the only live dance they ever saw.

Professor Kaufmann's approach to teaching inspired countless students in multiple disciplines, introducing them to math, geometry, physics, fire science and the environment through dance. Her pieces have toured nationally and internationally, including: Dancing Waters (water cycle and weather), Moving Words (parts of speech), Math Moves (geometric shapes and equations), A CoMotion in Motion (Newton's laws of motion), Fire Speaks the Land (fire science, forest ecology), and Changing Balance/Balancing Change. Her choreography and development of Fire Speaks the Land was sponsored by the National Park Service and the US Forest Service; Changing Balance/Balancing Change was commissioned by the Glacier National Park Conservancy to educate fourth- to eighth-grade students and Montana tourists about scientific and emotional facets of the emerging realities of climate change and its effects on Glacier National Park and the surrounding area.

Professor Kaufmann has been a tireless champion of dance and the arts and is nationally recognized for her work integrating movement into multiple disciplines. She has authored over 24 articles and chapters and as well as two textbooks on dance, dance education and integration of the arts. Since her hiring at UM she has choreographed over 20 dance pieces for our School. She has been enormously successful in her grant writing, receiving funding almost every year of her career at UM from the Montana Arts Council, Montana Cultural Trust, Plum Creek Foundation, Cadeau Foundation and the Appleseed Foundation, to name just a few. Over the past decade, she has raised an average of over \$32,000 per year to support dance, dance education and teacher development.

Professor Kaufmann is a highly sought-after researcher and speaker, teaching workshops and giving keynote addresses across the United States. Each of the faculty and staff in the School of Theatre and Dance is proud to call her a colleague: her work elevated the arts and dance across the region. We all support honoring Professor Karen Kaufmann with the rank of Professor Emeritus.

ATTACHMENTS

No attachments.