

November 19-20, 2020**ITEM 191-2002-R1120****Request for authorization to confer the title of Regent's Professor Emerita of Earth Science upon Dr. Cathy Whitlock, Montana State University**

THAT

The Board of Regents confers the title of Regent's Professor Emerita of Earth Sciences upon Cathy Whitlock from Montana State University's Department of Earth Sciences. The Board of Regents wishes to express its appreciation for her service to the University, the Montana University System, and the people of the State of Montana.

EXPLANATION

Regent's Professor Cathy Whitlock received her B.A. from Colorado College in 1975 and her Ph.D. from the University of Washington in 1983. Dr. Whitlock joined the Department of Earth Sciences at Montana State University faculty in 2004 as a Full Professor.

Dr. Whitlock is an internationally respected earth scientist who studies climate and environmental change. Her research interests include Quaternary environmental change, paleoclimatology, and paleoecology with a focus on long-term dynamics of vegetation, fire and climate. She is recognized for her scholarly contributions and leadership activities in the field of past climatic and environmental change, having published over 200 reviewed journal articles and book chapters on this topic. Her research sites extend from Yellowstone and the western U.S. to New Zealand, Tasmania and Patagonia. She was instrumental in the creation of the first Montana Climate Assessment. This statewide project involved outreach and coordination with many entities including the Montana Climate Office, Montana Water Center, and Montana State University Extension. The assessment focused on climate trends and their consequences for three of Montana's vital sectors: water, forests, and agriculture. Understanding our changing climate and impacts on Montana is vital. Dr. Whitlock is past President of the American Quaternary Association and has served on national and international advisory committees concerned with climate change. She is a Fellow of the Geological Society of America, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In 2018, she was elected to the National Academy of Sciences, the first person from the Montana University System to receive this prestigious honor.

For these and other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer on Dr. Cathy Whitlock the rank of Professor Emerita of Earth Sciences at Montana State University and wishes her well for many years in the future.

ATTACHMENTS

None