



January 4, 2022

Members of the Montana Board of Regents
c/o Commissioner Clayton T. Christian
Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education
2500 Broadway Street
P.O. Box 203201
Helena, MT 59620-3201

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

It is with great pleasure that the University of Montana nominates Jim Scott for an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters. This nomination is endorsed by the UM College of Humanities & Sciences and, pending your approval, will be presented to Faculty Senate in executive session in February. Included with this letter, you will find a complete nomination packet for the candidate. Our hope is that we can present this honorary doctorate at one of the University of Montana's Spring Commencement ceremonies in May, 2022.

Jim Scott is well-known for his impressive career with First Interstate BancSystem. Starting as a director in 1971, Scott's tenure at First Interstate BancSystem includes serving as the chairman of the board and the vice chair. In addition to his current role of managing partner for J.S. Investments, he continues to serve as a board member for First Interstate BanySystem, as well as a member of the Executive Committee and the Compensation Committee.

While Jim Scott's professional accomplishments are remarkable, his community service and philanthropic contributions are even more noteworthy. In addition to serving as a board member for the First Interstate BancSystem Foundation, he has held leadership roles in organizations across the state – including the Montana Community Foundation, Montana Ambassadors and Center for the Rocky Mountain West, to name but a few. A strong supporter of the performing arts, he helped transform Billing's Fox Theatre into the Alberta Bair Theater. Together with his wife, Chris, Jim co-chaired the Montana chapter of The Nature Conservancy, and he has also been actively involved with organizations outside Montana—including the Northwest Area Foundation, the Homer & Mildred Scott Foundation and the Fountain Valley School.

Jim's dedication to Montana's tribal communities is also significant. In addition to serving on the board of the American Indian College Fund, Jim worked with Chris and Harvey Stewart to start the Foundation for Community Vitality to support leaders and communities on the Crow, Northern Cheyenne and Blackfoot Reservations.

Jim Scott has my full support as an exceptional candidate for an honorary doctorate at the University of Montana. Thank you for your consideration of this impressive Montanan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Seth Bodnar".

Seth Bodnar
President

Office of the President