

March 15-16, 2023

ITEM 205-2001-R0323

Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Associate Professor Emerita of Nursing upon Dr. Dorothy "Dale" Mayer; Montana State University

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Dorothy "Dale" Mayer from Montana State University, 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

Dr. Dorothy "Dale" Mayer has served as a faculty member in the MSU Mark and Robyn Jones College of Nursing since 1997. She earned her PhD in Nursing from Oregon Health & Science University in 2010, a Master of Science in Nursing from University of California San Francisco and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, Texas. Her MSU tenure-track appointment began in 2010 but was interrupted for one year due to significant family loss. Dr. Mayer was promoted to Associate Professor and granted tenure in AY2020-2021.

As an MSU faculty member, Dr. Mayer made significant contributions to the discipline of nursing including ten peer-reviewed journal publications, three book chapters, and numerous accepted and invited peer-reviewed presentations. Dr. Mayer's research focused on the universal human experiences of grief, loss, and bereavement, which occur at times of death and when receiving a diagnosis of a serious illness. She was particularly interested in rural settings and extended her focus to include the bereavement of rural health care professionals who provide care for individuals and their families living with life-limiting illnesses. Dr. Mayer was a master teacher throughout her career who taught and advised students at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. She mentored over 15 graduate students in the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) or Master of Nursing (MN) programs and consistently advised undergraduate nursing students. Dr. Mayer served in a leadership capacity for the Missoula campus of the Mark and Robyn Jones College of Nursing, notably during the challenging years of the COVID-19 pandemic. In this leadership role, Dr. Mayer helped to ensure that MSU nursing students were supported to be successful in their educational goals, allowing them to enter the nursing workforce to serve Montana.

Dr. Mayer was well known for her compassion and support for colleagues and students who were experiencing life challenges. Reflective of other student feedback, one student teaching evaluation included this comment: "I completed three degrees at Montana State University, from two colleges. I engaged in student research with faculty and was able to contribute to professional-level work in each setting. I feel that I have exposure to more faculty advisors at MSU and around the country and world as a result of my time spent doing research and presenting at four professional conferences. I can honestly say that Dr. Dale Mayer is second to none in my experience. She demonstrates a phenomenal balance of approachable human and brilliant nursing leader."

For these and other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer upon Dr. Dorothy "Dale" Mayer the rank of Associate Professor Emerita of Nursing at Montana State University and wishes her well for many years into the future.

ATTACHMENTS

None