

March 15-16, 2023

ITEM 205-2701-R0323

Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of History upon Dr. Keith Edgerton; Montana State University Billings

THAT

The Department of History is nominating Dr. Keith Edgerton for emeritus status upon his retirement based on the many contributions he has made to our students, department, College, and University over 28 years of service.

EXPLANATION

Dr. Edgerton earned his MA in History at the University of Montana and his PhD in American Studies from Washington State University. He joined the MSUB History Department in 1994 and has served the institution for 28 years. While at MSUB, he has served as Chair of the Academic Senate, President of the Faculty Association, on dozens of different committees and DRTCs, as Faculty Association Grievance Officer, on search committees, and as a formal and informal mentor.

Dr. Edgerton has taught a range of highly rated courses in American history from the Civil War to the present. His teaching has remained relevant despite his long tenure at MSUB. He continued to seek pedagogical development opportunities, such as through the John Gardner Institute, and has used supplemental instructors to help students succeed. He is an approachable professor, and, as a student noted, "his door is always open." For decades, Dr. Edgerton has promoted research as a pedagogical tool. Indeed, Dr. Edgerton has pursued a rigorous research agenda. Most recently, he published an article in the peer-reviewed journal *Montana, The Magazine of Western History* on the famed "copper king" of Butte, William A. Clark. His monograph, *Montana Justice: Power, Punishment and the Montana Penitentiary*, has been recognized as an important work in his field. Dr. Edgerton contributes to the field through his numerous book reviews (over 150 professional reviews!), op-eds, and essays. He is widely respected as a prominent public intellectual and frequently provides historical context on contemporary issues.

His expertise in the American West has made him a favorite speaker in the community. He has presented to numerous local and state organizations, including the Billings Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary and Lions clubs, both television stations, the Carbon County Historical Association, the Montana Museum of Art and Culture, and the Butte-Silverbow County archives, among others. He serves as chair of the Yellowstone County Historic Preservation Board. Nationally, he serves as an editorial referee for several scholarly journals and presses, is a featured scholar for the "Road Scholar" program and consults with several educational agencies. Dr. Edgerton has earned many honors over his career, including the Cox Fellowship Award, Faculty Excellence Awards, and numerous grants and fellowships.

Dr. Edgerton embodies the true spirit of a senior faculty member – he is engaged, professional, thoughtful, provides crucial institutional memory and historical context to decision-making, and continuously advocates for faculty and students. As an Emeritus Professor, we have no doubt that Dr. Keith Edgerton would continue to serve and celebrate Montana State University Billings.

For these and other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer upon Dr. Keith Edgerton the rank of Professor Emeritus of History at Montana State University Billings and wishes him well for many years into the future.

ATTACHMENTS

None