

March 15-16, 2023

**ITEM 205-2007-R0323**

**Request for Authorization to Award an Honorary Doctorate to Carol Glenn Lalani; Montana State University**

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**THAT**

In recognition of many career and philanthropic achievements and the distinction brought to the Montana University System, the Board of Regents grants Montana State University the authority to confer an Honorary Doctorate of Arts to Carol Glenn Lalani.

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**EXPLANATION**

Carol Lalani was born in Bozeman, Montana and raised in Livingston. Upon graduating from the University of Montana, she embarked on an international banking career while never losing sight of her devotion to humanitarian causes, particularly related to access to education in underserved communities and combating the trafficking of women and children.

Carol and her husband, Sal Lalani, have been outstanding members of the Bozeman, Livingston and greater Montana communities. It is no exaggeration to say every arts organization in our community benefited from the Lalani's generosity: the Bozeman Symphony, Shakespeare in the Parks, the Intermountain Opera Company and the Montana Chamber Music Society, the President's Fine Arts Series, to name but a few. Perhaps their most transformative gift state is the Shane Center in Livingston. This arts center, named for their late son, has become the heart of the cultural life in Paradise Valley, drawing audiences from Livingston, Bozeman, Big Timber and Billings. The "Shane" is an example of a community arts center at its best.

Carol has also been a leading supporter of the MSU chapter of Engineers Without Borders. For over a decade, the work of our students would not have been possible without the financial support of Carol and Sal Lalani. The reasons for their support are two-fold: First, Mr. Lalani was born in Kenya and has been inspired to give back to the country of his birth. Second, a prime reason for building water wells at elementary schools (and not the center of town, for example) is because water carriers are girls. With water wells located at schools, the water carriers, i.e. the girls, have a reason to go to school. And if girls are educated, communities prosper.

To uplift children and women has been Carol Lalani's most passionate work. She has been active domestically and internationally fighting slavery of women and children, the illicit trade and trafficking of women and children and has employed her expertise in international finance to set-up women in small businesses by providing them with access to micro-finance and lending organizations. She has supported women and children in Kenya, India, Pakistan and Afghanistan. She has supported the plight of refugees and organizations who support the victims of domestic abuse. She has supported the work of "Haven" in the Bozeman community and funded the first Presidential Scholarship for a Native American student, who has now graduated from Montana State University. Ms. Lalani is the recipient of an Honorary Alumni Award from the Honors College and serves on the College of Arts and Architecture Advisory Council.

Carol Lalani is a quiet and transformative leader. She has set in motion and supported structures and organizations which support the most vulnerable members of society. She has changed countless lives for the better and sets a wonderful example of what it means to live a life in service to others.

For these and her other extraordinary contributions, the Board of Regents is pleased to confer an Honorary Doctorate of Arts at Montana State University upon Carol Glenn Lalani and wishes her well for many years in the future.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment #1: Letter of Nomination from President Cruzado