

March 15-16, 2023

ITEM 205-2008-R0323

Request for Authorization to Award an Honorary Doctorate to Robyn Jones; Montana State University

THAT

In recognition of many career 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 Humane Letters to Robyn Jones.

EXPLANATION

Robyn Jones grew up across the Montana border in Lethbridge, Alberta. While raising six children, she was always a hard worker and go-getter. She obtained an insurance license and in 2003 founded Goosehead Insurance, where she serves as vice chair today. Goosehead Insurance is a rapidly growing and innovative personal lines insurance agency that distributes its products and services through more than 1,800 offices in the United States. Goosehead Insurance went public in 2018.

Robyn and her husband, Mark, split time between Texas and Whitefish, MT, enjoying quality time with their children and grandchildren in their adopted state of Montana, where both Robyn and Mark spent time as children.

Robyn deeply understands the challenges Montanans face regarding healthcare in rural areas, and the critical impact nurses and nurse practitioners can have on their communities. In August 2022, Robyn and Mark Jones made a historic \$101 million philanthropic investment in Montana State University's College of Nursing. The gift — the largest ever given to a college of nursing, as well as the largest private gift in the history of the state of Montana — will fund the construction of new facilities at Montana State University Mark and Robyn Jones College of Nursing's five campuses in Bozeman, Billings, Great Falls, Kalispell and Missoula. Equipped with modern classrooms and state-of-the-art simulation labs, nursing students will hone their critical thinking and practice their skills in these new facilities; establish five endowed faculty professorships — the first in the history of the MSU College of Nursing. These endowed professorships will position MSU to attract top faculty talent during a nationwide nursing faculty shortage; develop an endowed scholarship fund which will allow the Mark and Robyn Jones College of Nursing to keep the cost of nursing education affordable for all students; and create Montana's only certified nurse midwifery program preparing doctoral level nurses who will significantly increase the number of specialized maternal health care providers capable and willing to provide services to rural and remote communities in Montana.

With additional space to grow its enrollment, MSU estimates it will be able to meet the state's projected nursing shortage by 2030. Robyn is determined to make this world a better place and the contributions she has made to the lives of Montanans will be felt for generations to come, especially for Montana's largely rural communities.

For these and her other extraordinary contributions, the Board of Regents is pleased to confer the Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters at Montana State University to Robyn Jones and wishes her well for many years in the future.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Letter of Nomination from President Cruzado