

May 17-18, 2023

ITEM 206-2003-R0523

Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emerita of Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology upon Cathy Cripps; Montana State University

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Cathy Cripps 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. Cripps served as a Plant Sciences faculty member for 27 years with the first seven years as an adjunct professor and the last 20 in a tenure track position, reaching full professor in 2016. Dr. Cripps made large positive impacts upon MSU students by teaching of large and medium enrollment introductory and advanced biology and mycology courses, advising and mentoring of undergraduate and graduate students, and her significant positive impacts upon the University's visibility and productivity in basic plant science research.

Dr. Cripps was highly skilled as a mycologist and was well known for her skill in mycology teaching and research. Her student evaluations were universally excellent and reflected the time and attention she put into her courses and the respect and caring she showed to her students. Dr. Cripps won numerous teaching and research awards. These include the Weston Teaching Award (national award from the Mycological Society of America), the Contributions to Amateur Mycology Award from the North American Mycological Society, the Martin-Baker Research Award in Mycology, and the MSU Anna K. Fridley Award for Teaching. Dr. Cripps chaired eight graduate student committees with all students going on to successful careers in mycology related areas and served on 30 graduate student committees.

Dr. Cripps was well known among mycologists and plant pathologists for her work on high elevation mycorrhizal fungi and the use of mycorrhizal fungi in whitebark pine restoration. Dr. Cripps is a worldwide expert in alpine fungi and discovered over 200 found in Alpine environments. She received over \$2 million in research funding and wrote and edited two books on fungi in Arctic and forest ecosystems. Dr. Cripps was a leader in characterizing fungal diversity and was the only one mycologist in the lower 48 states that studied Alpine fungi.

For these and other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer upon Cathy Cripps the rank of Professor Emerita of Plant Sciences at Montana State University and wishes her well for many years into the future.

ATTACHMENTS

None