

November 16-17, 2023

ITEM 209-1501-R1123

**Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Nursing on Miriam Young;
Montana Technological University**

THAT

On behalf of the Sherry Lesar School of Nursing, I am writing this letter of recommendation in support of the nomination of Miriam Young for Emeritus Rank. Miriam Young began her career at Montana Tech in 2003 and retired this past May. During Miriam's tenure in the Nursing Department, she has made many valuable contributions to the department, nursing profession, and campus community. Students and peers recognize and honor her leadership, mentorship, and passion and commitment to nursing education.

EXPLANATION

Miriam's nursing experience prior to joining Montana Tech focused on pediatric care and leadership and management. Miriam first obtained her nursing degree from University of San Carlos in the Philippines and then later moved to the United States and obtained her Master's in Nursing from the University of Utah. While working on her Master's, she worked as a pediatric intensive care nurse which included care of pediatric burn patients. Miriam's passion for pediatric nursing and her home country is contagious among students and anyone who worked with her. Her infusion of these experiences and stories brought new dimensions and diversity into her courses and was met with respect and admiration from her students and peers.

Review of Miriam's student evaluations support her effective teaching during her tenure as she consistently received ratings that demonstrated she met criteria for effective or very effective teaching. Miriam maintained her pediatric nursing certification throughout her time at Montana Tech to ensure that she was consistently delivering up to date information to students. Miriam's devotion to nursing student preparedness was also exemplified in her ability to implement new programs for their benefit. Based on student feedback, Miriam started a peer mentorship program that partnered senior nursing students with incoming nursing students to help provide a smooth transition into nursing school. She also worked closely with both Montana State Board of Nursing and Montana Nurses Association to assure senior nursing students participated in Transition to Practice workshops to ensure readiness for their new careers as nurses.

Miriam's gift of mentoring carried over into other areas of her work. Many newer nursing faculty speak very highly of Miriam's ability to mentor and help transition into their new role. There are many nursing tenure and promotion portfolios that have been modeled after Miriam's template that she created. During the two decades spent in the nursing department, Miriam's leadership and advocacy demonstrated commitment to a dynamic team that valued a program's ability to evolve and change with the healthcare landscape. Miriam's strong activism in nursing curriculum committees was instrumental in contributing to the growth and success of the nursing program which included receipt of initial accreditation of both the Associate of Science in Nursing Degree (ASN) and the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree, the change from an Associate of Science in Nursing to offering a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, and the integration of simulation into the nursing curriculum.

Miriam's membership in Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society, National League for Nursing, American Nurses Association, and Montana Nurses' Association demonstrates her advocacy for the nursing profession and her commitment and belief to remain abreast of the everchanging healthcare landscape and keep her

courses relevant and up to date. Miriam has also published in the “American Nurse Today”, a peer reviewed journal of the American Nurses Association entitled “Evaluation of Clinical Competency”. Miriam also has had the prestigious honor of being selected twice to write exam questions for the NCLEX-RN licensing exam.

Miriam’s leadership and contribution to Montana Tech Nursing’s growth as an academic department crossed over into the campus community as well. Miriam served as a member of the Institutional Review Board, Research Advisory Committee, and was an ex-officio member of the undergraduate research committee. For almost ten years, Miriam served on the faculty senate as nursing’s representative. Miriam’s leadership on these committees showcased her strength in advocacy and commitment to shared governance.

One of Miriam’s greatest strengths is hospitality. Her welcoming spirit, care and concern for all, love of cooking, and gift of conversation has infiltrated and encircled the many who have worked, learned and visited this beautiful and renowned institution over the years. Miriam has hosted many in her home to assure a warm welcome to the Tech family was experienced. Being the recipient of Miriam’s famous pumpkin bread meant that one was special in Miriam’s eyes, but no one is telling the vast number of loaves that left Miriam’s kitchen! It has been an honor to work with and be mentored by Miriam Young. She will be greatly missed, but I am confident that she will always be an engaged friend to Montana Tech and the Sherry Lesar School of Nursing.

For these and other contributions, the Sherry Lesar School of Nursing strongly supports Miriam Young to the status of Professor Emeritus.

ATTACHMENTS

None