

Joe Farley  
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Date: June 12, 2023

Board of Regents (including Ex-Officio members) of the Montana University System  
560 N. Park Ave.; PO Box 203201  
Helena, MT. 59620-3201

Dear Board Members,

I am writing to express my objection to the proposed name change at Montana Tech which would change the name of the School of Mines and Engineering to the Lance College of Mines and Engineering. The proposed name change requires review and approval by the Board of Regents before it is scheduled to take place in September 2023. While I think that the donation made by Mr. Ryan Lance and his wife is an extraordinary gift and is tremendous for Montana Tech, I disagree with the renaming of the School of Mines and Engineering. The Mines and Engineering programs have a long history since the founding of Tech. It is a bit of a slap in the face to the history of the school, the programs involved and their graduates. I realize there are numerous donor "recognition" named facilities at Tech, with most of these coming in the last decade or so. But I feel that the renaming of the School of Mines and Engineering for an individual or family is going way too far in this regard and is something that should not be "for sale", no matter what the dollars involved are.

As a Tech graduate (BS Petroleum Engineering, 1983) I am very proud of Tech and grateful for what it has done for me. There is no doubt that the experience, education and degree I received from Tech changed my life. If this name change is approved these feelings won't change but I do think Tech and it's place in my mind will be tarnished somewhat. I can't help but think other graduates will feel the same way.

Regards,

Joe Farley

BS Petroleum Engineering; Montana Tech, 1983

Ken Hendricks  
4025 Placid Drive  
Casper, WY 82604

June 13, 2023

Montana University System

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a graduate from Montana Tech (BSc Petroleum Engineering – 1982) and am writing in opposition to the name change from the Montana School of Mines & Engineering to the Lance College of Mines & Engineering.

Like many, my family has a long history with Tech (my father, brothers and numerous cousins were all graduates) and Tech, and it's history, is special to all of us.

For a significant portion of its existence, the School of Mines and Engineering made up the entirety of the college and the stellar industry reputation that Tech now enjoys was built by the many graduates that attended the Montana School of Mines/Montana Tech. Not only do I believe that the name change is a slight to that group but I also believe that changing the name from Montana School of Mines & Engineering to the Lance College of Mines & Engineering is not a net gain for the school. Keeping Montana in the name maintains that historical link and frankly has much more prestige.

Certainly, I am highly impressed by Ryan and his wife's extremely generous financial contribution to Tech and believe this is a very significant example of the industry status Tech presently has. I am sure that a donation of this magnitude can be very beneficial to the school, but I am equally sure that the name change will not provide the same benefit.

Sincerely,

Ken Hendricks  
BSc PE 1982