

March 14-15, 2024

**ITEM 211-2003-R0324**

**Request for Authorization to Award an Honorary Doctorate to I-Ho Pomeroy; Montana State University**

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**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 Doctor of Humane Letters to I-Ho Pomeroy.

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**EXPLANATION**

I-Ho Pomeroy was born in South Korea and while working in South Korea at the U.S. Navy “trouble desk,” met her husband, Derik. They moved to Bozeman where her husband was raised, raised their family and started a small business.

I-Ho has owned a successful, award-winning, Korean cuisine restaurant, I-Ho’s Korean Grill, for over 25 years, here in Bozeman, Montana. I-Ho has a reputation of being one of the most generous spirits, volunteering and organizing countless fundraising opportunities for nonprofit groups, educational causes, international disaster relief efforts and preparing food for those in need around the community.

In addition to being a fixture in the community as a local business owner and tireless volunteer, I-Ho Pomeroy was elected to the Bozeman City Commission in 2013, a position she was re-elected two times thereafter, with a decade of public service as a Bozeman City Commissioner. The City of Bozeman noted she was the first immigrant to serve on the Bozeman City Commission. I-Ho’s priorities during her tenure included affordable housing, mental health care access and protecting Bozeman’s environment and promoting open space in Bozeman for recreation and community gardens, as well as encouraging the city’s growth to accommodate being the walkable and bikeable community it’s known for. She hopes they continue to further these goals for future generations to enjoy Montana the way we have.

Ms. Pomeroy is known for holding community fundraisers at her restaurant, with the proceeds going to many deserving causes, both locally and internationally. I-Ho regularly volunteers her time to speak on panels across campus, most recently speaking on female entrepreneurs of color in Bozeman. I-Ho has contributed so much to Montana State University over the years and her impact has had a remarkable reach to the citizens of Montana and beyond. I-Ho truly embodies the best of Montana. She is a selfless community leader and public servant, with tremendous enthusiasm, compassion, and generosity to those who have had the opportunity to work alongside her.

For these and other extraordinary contributions, the Board of Regents is pleased to confer an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters at Montana State University upon Iho Pomeroy and wishes her well in the future.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1- Letter of Nomination from President Cruzado