

December 22, 2023

Commissioner Clayton Christian  
Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education  
560 North Park Avenue  
Helena, Montana 59620-3201

Dear Commissioner Christian:

This is a request for the Board of Regents to confirm the recommendation of an honorary degree to Ms. I-Ho Pomeroy, to be awarded at Montana State University's (MSU) commencement ceremony in the Spring 2024. I-Ho Pomeroy's nomination was recommended by the MSU Honorary Degree Committee and MSU Faculty Senate leadership voted in favor of her honorary degree recommendation.

**Ms. I-Ho Pomeroy (Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters):**

I-Ho Pomeroy was born in South Korea. While working in South Korea at the U.S. Navy "trouble desk," she met her husband, Derik. The couple returned to the United States and settled in Montana, where her husband was raised. After her husband completed law school in Missoula, they moved to Bozeman, raised a family and she 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 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

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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.

It would be a tremendous honor to bestow an honorary doctorate degree to Ms. I-Ho Pomeroy from Montana State University at MSU's Spring 2024 commencement ceremony. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Waded Cruzado". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Waded" and last name "Cruzado" clearly distinguishable.

Waded Cruzado  
President