



August 14, 2024

Members of the Montana Board of Regents
c/o Commissioner Clayton T. Christian
Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education
2500 Broadway Street
P.O. Box 203201
Helena, MT 59620-3201

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

It is my honor to present for your consideration the University of Montana's nomination for William Marcus for an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters. This nomination has been through the campus process, including action by the appropriate department/college level, as well as action by the Faculty Senate in executive session. Included with this letter, you will find a complete nomination packet for the candidate.

Described in his nomination letters as a "Montana Treasure" who "possesses a deep respect and admiration for the people, history and landscapes of Montana," William Marcus began his career in public media upon receiving his bachelor's degree from the University of Montana in 1974. Working at UM for the duration of his career – working his way from a production assistant to director of the Broadcast Media Center – Mr. Marcus's impact on the public media field in Montana is legendary. In addition to being the recognizable host of Montana PBS's Backroads of Montana and an on-air host for Montana Public Radio, Mr. Marcus played a pivotal role in expanding the availability of public media for Montanans. He is credited with extending the coverage areas for both Montana Public Radio and Montana PBS, thereby increasing Montanan's access to high-quality cultural and children's programs, music and news. William Marcus also brought attention to our great state with his audio stories – often about his fellow Montanans – often making their way to being broadcast nationally.

Beyond his individual contributions to public media in Montana, William Marcus also helped shape and mentor other journalists through his work with students at UM. As a mentor and teacher, Mr. Marcus was a "scholarly example" who was "happy to share his knowledge."

In addition to the awards bestowed upon programs he helped produce, William Marcus is a recipient of the Montana Governor's Humanities Award, the Missoula Cultural Council's Cultural Achievement Award, and many awards from UM, including a Distinguished Alumni Award.

An incredible person, notable alumnus, and dedicated member of the UM community, William Marcus has my full support as an exceptional candidate for an honorary doctorate from the University of Montana. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Seth Bodnar".

Seth Bodnar
President

Office of the President