

November 21-22, 2024

**ITEM 215-2017-R1124**

**Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology upon Matthew Lavin; Montana State University**

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**THAT**

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Matthew Lavin from Montana State University, the Board of Regents wishes to express its appreciation for his service to the University, the Montana University System, and the people of the State of Montana.

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**EXPLANATION**

Dr. Lavin served as a Plant Sciences faculty member for over 35 years. Dr. Lavin made large positive impacts upon MSU students by teaching of small, medium, and large enrollment introductory and upper division courses. Dr. Lavin taught biology, plant systematics, and evolution courses. He also advised and mentored undergraduate and graduate students, along with new MSU faculty members. Dr. Lavin was well known as a very patient and kind advisor and mentor and served as the Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology graduate chair for many years. Dr. Lavin made significant impacts upon the University's visibility and productivity in basic plant science research via independent single investigator and larger multi-investigator collaborative research projects.

Dr. Lavin was highly skilled and knowledgeable as a plant geneticist/phylogenetic expert and was well regarded internationally for his plant biodiversity studies. His student and advisor evaluations were universally excellent and reflected the time and attention he put into his courses and the respect and care he showed to all those seeking knowledge and his advice.

Dr. Lavin was well known among plant biodiversity researchers for his work on plant diversity in the sagebrush steppe of western North America and in seasonally dry tropical forests and woodlands. Dr. Lavin was very active in service to MSU and beyond. Dr. Lavin served as the Developer/Director of the Montana State University (MONT) Herbarium, which is part of the Consortium of Pacific Northwest Herbaria that includes an online image database of MONT specimens, from 1989–2024. He developed a popular plant identification app and created and maintained a photographic database of over 27,000 photos. Dr. Lavin was a leader in characterizing plant diversity and in quantifying the impact of climate upon plant diversity and adaptation.

For these and other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer upon Dr. Matthew Lavin the rank of Professor Emeritus of Plant Sciences at Montana State University and wishes him well for many years into the future.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

None