

September 19 – 20, 2012

**ITEM 156-2002-R0912**

**Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Mathematical Education on Maurice J. Burke; Montana State University-Bozeman**

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**THAT**

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Maurice J. Burke from the faculty of 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. Maurice Burke received a B.S. in Math and a B.A. in Philosophy from Montana State University in 1974. He was then awarded a Rhodes Scholarship and earned a B.A. in Mathematics/Philosophy at Oxford University in 1976. He then earned an M.S. in 1978 and a Ph.D. in 1984 at the University of Wisconsin. After positions at Texas – San Antonio and Weber State, he joined the Department of Mathematical Sciences at Montana State University in January, 1988, was promoted to Professor of Mathematics Education in 2003, and has been on the faculty at MSU for 24 years.

Dr. Burke has been involved in the mathematics education program at both the undergraduate and graduate levels throughout his career. He directed 10 Ph.D. students, served on more than 100 M.S. committees, and guided dozens of research capstone projects for mathematics education M.S. students. Throughout his career he has been a champion of professional development for practicing teachers and a national leader in developing and delivering online education.

During 1992-1998 Dr. Burke was Co-Director of the \$20,000,000, National Science Foundation Systemic Initiative for Montana Mathematics and Science (SIMMS) project. This program culminated in the publication by Kendall-Hunt Publishing of a six-level, high school integrated mathematics curriculum still in use today.

Over the span of 1996-2001 Dr. Burke led the transition of MSU's M.S. in Mathematics – Mathematics Education Option (MSMME) program from a strictly face-to-face program to an online format still used today. This program has provided training to more than 200 in-service teachers around the United States.

For three years, 1997-2000, Dr. Burke worked tirelessly as the Editor of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) 2000 Yearbook. During 2001-2007 he was the Editor of the Navigations series for NCTM, which produced five volumes of standards-based materials to assist practicing teachers.

Dr. Burke's reputation as an extraordinary teacher was supported by all the students lucky enough to be in one of his classes. In recognition of this excellence, he received the College of Letters and

Science Outstanding Teaching Award in 2006.

In summary, Maurice Burke has served Montana State University well by combining his knowledge of mathematics and mathematics education with his skills in research, teaching, and teacher training as a means to increase understanding of mathematics and provide the training necessary to produce outstanding teachers for the K-12 mathematics community. He continues to be actively involved in communicating this knowledge and remains a great asset to the university and the state of Montana.

For these and other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer upon Maurice J. Burke the rank of Professor Emeritus of Mathematics Education at Montana State University and wishes him well for many years in the future.

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## **ATTACHMENTS**

No Attachments