Superintendent Denise Juneau to Receive Honorary Doctorate

University of Montana Regents Vote to Bestow Honor

SEATTLE – The Montana Board of Regents has approved the University of Montana’s intent to confer an honorary doctorate of humane letters to Seattle Public Schools Superintendent Denise Juneau.

The degree will be presented to Superintendent Juneau during UM commencement exercises on May 4, 2019.

Superintendent Juneau graduated with a Juris Doctor degree from UM law school in 2004. She earned a master’s degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and a bachelor of arts-English degree from Montana State University.

“I’m humbled and honored to be selected by the Regents to receive an honorary doctorate,” said Superintendent Juneau. “I’m also very proud of my University of Montana roots and all the things we were able to accomplish in Montana.”

Prior to her current leadership role with SPS, Superintendent Juneau served as Montana superintendent of public instruction from 2009-2017. She was the first female Native American in the United States to be elected to a statewide executive office.

“Her leadership taught Montanans how to be better partners to our tribal communities and taught our country the importance of inclusive and culturally humble education,” UM President Seth Bodnar wrote
in his nomination. “Juneau has been a role model to many, and we are grateful and proud that she is now expanding her scope of influence as the superintendent of Seattle Public Schools.”

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