RMC’S McNAMER HONORED AS HUMANITIES HERO

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BILLINGS – Elizabeth McNamer, Rocky Mountain College assistant professor & Zerek Chair, religious thought, is among eight people who will be honored as Humanities Heroes June 6 in Billings.

Also selected are three others with connections to RMC: Joe Medicine Crow, who received an honorary doctorate from RMC; Janine Pease, a former RMC academic vice president; and Mardell Plainfeather, an RMC alumna.

Humanities Heroes are people who have contributed significantly to the humanities by presenting engaging programs, hosting many humanities events, composing important books and articles about humanities topics, donating funds to sustain humanities work, and have been nominated by the community, according to Ken Egan, Humanities Montana executive director.

“They inspire through their commitment to learning and reflecting together,” Egan said.

According to a press release from Humanities Montana, McNamer was selected because she has “devoted her life to connecting the dots with her students and the cultural, religious, artistic, and historical influences that are important for an enlightened educational experience.”

“McNamer is devoted to mentoring and teaching and has been an advocate for art, humanities and education for decades. She served on the Institute for Peace Studies; was one of the earliest scholars involved in the excavation of Bethsaida; authors a regular column in The Billings Gazette about religion; encourages students to attend symphony and opera; provides scholarships to the Students for Academic Success, which pays for them to attend theatre at Alberta Bair; and speaks internationally on religion and religious tolerance,” the statement added.

Others who will be honored include Howard Boggess, a Crow historian; Tami Haaland, an MSUB professor and poet; Ben Steele, an internationally celebrate artist; and Karen Stevenson, an eastern Montana arts advocate.

The reception and awards ceremony will celebrate the accomplishments of these recipients at the Western Heritage Center in Billings June 6, at 5 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

Humanities Montana is the state’s independent nonprofit affiliate of the National
Endowment for the Humanities. Since 1972, Humanities Montana has provided services and grants to hundreds of Montana organizations in support of public programs in history, literature, values, and public issues. Among its many programs are its grants, Montana Conversations: Speakers Bureau and Speakers in the Schools, the Humanities Montana Festival of the Book, Letters About Literature, and the Governor’s Humanities Awards.

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