Montana State University to celebrate its 68th birthday with Charter Day Convocation

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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Montana State University will celebrate its 68th birthday with a Charter Day Convocation in the University Theater at 9:30 a. m. Feb. 17, according to Dr. Ralph Y. McGinnis, chairman of the MSU Public Exercises Committee.

Dr. Philip M. Widenhouse, president of Rocky Mountain College, Billings, will be the principal speaker at the convocation commemorating the signing of the University's charter by Gov. John Rickards on Feb. 17, 1893.

The student body that will observe Charter Day this year is 72 times larger than the one that attended the University's first classes in the old Willard School, Dr. McGinnis noted. Since the University opened its doors on Sept. 11, 1895, enrollment has grown from 50 to 3,621 students, and the curriculum has expanded proportionately to keep pace with the demands of the times, he said.

"From these modest beginnings the University has developed into an institution that is fully accredited to grant bachelor and master's degrees in nearly every field of knowledge and to confer doctoral degrees in education, chemistry, geology, microbiology and zoology," Dr. McGinnis commented.

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