1. **State and team personnel changes**

   Travis Reindl’s departure from CommunicationWorks effectively constitutes a team personnel change. Travis has been an integral—and invaluable—part of the Montana team from the beginning of the project. Mary, David, Travis, and Judy talked briefly about wrapping up Travis’ role till June and will regroup in June to discuss strategic engagement work moving forward.

2. **Progress on common evaluation milestones**

   Milestones met – see previous reports.

3. **Upcoming activities and events related to the initiative**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 25</td>
<td>Webinar with Montana College Access Network</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 26</td>
<td>David presents to New Mexico Workforce Strategy Academy</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 27-28</td>
<td>Presentation to Regents on the progress of initiatives with special emphasis on regional hubs, dual enrollment, regents transfer core, related instruction, and online portal to dual enrollment programs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 7</td>
<td>David attends Thought Partners meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 10 and 24</td>
<td>Biweekly implementation team teleconference (even-numbered Thu.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 28</td>
<td>Joint developmental and ABLE workgroup meeting with TN visitors</td>
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<tr>
<td>June or July</td>
<td>Individual contacts and group meeting with state advisory team</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 12</td>
<td>NGA-supported Governor’s forum on adult credentialing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept-Oct</td>
<td>COLLEGE!Now community tours</td>
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4. **Activities and progress this month, as they relate to the following (taken from the scope of work):**

   a. **The goals for overall project coordination**

      ▪ On target. Sharing monthly progress reports with broader team on state’s public space on the KC. In process of preparing narrative and budget progress reports for first contract period.

   b. **The goals for communications and engagement**

      ▪ New COLLEGE!Now website is up (see [http://mus.edu/twoyear/COLLEGEnow/default.asp](http://mus.edu/twoyear/COLLEGEnow/default.asp)), graced with the new logo (see top of report) designed as part of CommunicationWORKS contract.
Mary presented a plenary session on COLLEGE!Now at Montana TRIO conference on May 20.

CommWorks has developed the general plan for COLLEGE!Now community tours across the state in September and October.

Mary presented a summary of progress to the Board of Public Education on May 13, with detailed explanations of the alignment of related instruction requirements, the development of dual enrollment protocols, the progress of the ABLE workgroup, and the development of COLLEGE!Now Online. With respect to the latter, she asked for BPE feedback on whether the online initiative came too late in the school year for effective implementation in the fall. The informal consensus of the BPE was that it was problematic, but up to OCHE as to whether to proceed.

Commissioner Stearns met with the associated faculty of the Montana University System on May 17 to discuss the COLLEGE!Now initiatives and respond to their questions and concerns. It was a good exchange -- they were very interested in the opportunity analysis, and in participating in some of the workgroups.

See question 2 regarding personnel changes.

c. The goals for bringing the community college mission to all two-year campuses, including activities of the four work groups

i. Developmental

- Members of workgroup participated in April 29 ECS webinar JAM on assessment, placement and delivery in developmental education, and posted notes on workgroup’s KC space for further discussion.

- David attended the I-BEST site visit in Seattle, and presented on COLLEGE!Now. He observed that while most states talk about getting students ready for college, Washington focuses on making college ready for students. Brenda Rudolph, who attended the site visit with David, is pairing up with an ABE instructor for a pilot at FVCC.

- Scheduling Bruce Vandal and Treva Berryman from TN for a joint developmental/ABLE workgroup meeting on June 28. Will also invite the implementation team or the CAOs.

ii. Adult-friendly

- MSU-Great Falls COT submitted a proposal for the Lumina adult credentialing grant. Focuses on expanding the use of learning communities for adults, creating online degree completion programs, modularizing developmental courses, and developing assessments and policies for awarding credit for prior learning. The project is closely aligned with this project's efforts and is titled Finish COLLEGE!Now.

- The NGA grant proposal team, including the Governor's education advisor, will meet on May 24 to firm up planning for the August 12 Governor’s forum on adult credentialing.
iii. Adult basic literacy education (ABLE)

- The ABLE directors in communities with colleges of technology were convened on May 11. The focus questions of the meeting were “What are you doing now to bring ABLE programs and services to the COT in your community” and “What do we need to do to improve this connectivity?” The discussion was exceptionally rich: themes for further discussions were identified and a sense of shared goals was apparent.

iv. Workforce responsiveness

- The workgroup met on April 27 with excellent participation from those in attendance. About half of the business representatives who had agreed to attend did not make it. Mary is working with Pat Wise in the Governor’s Office to follow up and expand outreach to business and industry.

- A survey of 2-year CEOs revealed a range of workforce responsiveness across campuses. Specific information collected on how campuses work with business and industry will help identify gaps and best practices.

d. The goals for making two-year colleges regional hubs, including activities of the two work groups:

i. High School/College transitions

- The dual enrollment subcommittee of the transitions workgroup has been working through a discussion document based on recommendations from a 2005 task force, as recently updated. The draft will next move through the implementation team, tribal college leadership, and an MUS faculty group interested in dual enrollment. Outstanding issues include National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP) accreditation, consistent fee policies, and a concurrence on a common interlocal agreement. The Regents will get an update on this issue May 27, but the work group was not ready to propose policies for board approval at this time.

- Mary met by telephone with the board of the Montana Digital Academy (K-12 online academy providing access to credit recovery, enhanced curriculum options, and dual enrollment opportunities) to discuss the status of the dual enrollment policy framework in Montana at present and the ways that the digital academy and the virtual community college might interface. Future discussions are planned.

ii. Curriculum coordination and alignment

- On May 27 OCHE will update the Board of Regents on the guidelines for alignment of related instruction and ask for any further guidance prior to the implementation work of 2010-2011.

- The Regents Transfer Core workgroup has identified major-specific approaches to the RTC that suggest further exploration would be worthwhile. On May 27 OCHE will update the Board of Regents on the workgroup’s progress and ask for any further guidance as the group
proceeds. The intent is to present the regents with a pilot RTC for introduction in fall 2010.

e. **The goals for technology infrastructure, including activities of the two work groups:**

   i. **Technology for efficiency**
      
      – Recommended guidelines on general and online program duplication were piloted with proposals for the May Board of Regents meeting. Based on feedback from the campuses, the guidelines have been revised and will be tested again in September submissions.
      
      – Banner implementation at Miles and Dawson Community Colleges has immersed those campuses in training.

   ii. **Virtual community college**
      
      – The implementation team made significant progress in surfacing and resolving many issues, but was unable to come to closure on all matters in time for a fall launch of **COLLEGE!Now Online**, a portal to early college programs. Unresolved issues include inconsistent fee policies and concerns about duplication and confusion with the Montana Digital Academy for high school students. The late timing of the launch was also a concern. Without clarifying these issues, the team felt it would be marketing a product that is not ready for prime time and damaging efforts to brand **COLLEGE!Now** and **COLLEGE!Now Online** positively. As a result, this effort will be put on hold until the fall.

f. **The goals for outcomes-based funding**

   - Montana sent four team members to the Indiana site visit in May. They will report back at an upcoming meeting.