

August 2, 2007

**ITEM 137-01-C0807**

**Equipment and Technology in High Demand Fields**

**THAT:**

The Board of Regents approves the list of campus proposals recommended by the Commissioner of Higher Education for equipment and technology funding.

**EXPLANATION:**

The 2007 Legislature appropriated \$4 million of one-time-only funds to the Montana University System for the purpose of supporting equipment and technology needs in high demand fields. The legislation directs the Commissioner's Office to facilitate a competitive process to distribute the funds, whereby \$1.75 million must be matched on a one-to-one basis from non-state funds.

Following the legislative session, the Commissioner's Office released an RFP eliciting proposals from each institution, including the community colleges. In early July, representatives from each campus assembled, along with individuals from industry and the State Workforce Investment Board, to score and rank proposals in order to provide recommendations for funding to the Commissioner.

The Commissioner's recommendations are based on the RFP committee's rankings and state-wide need. The recommendations are in full compliance with the legislative match requirements.