

## CAMPUS REPORT

**DATE:** February 10, 2008

**TO:** Board of Regents

**FROM:** W. Franklin Gilmore  
Chancellor, Montana Tech of The University of Montana

**RE:** Campus Report for the March 5-6, 2009 Board of Regents' Meeting

- Dr. Larry Smith, Assistant Professor of Geological Engineering, led the geologic field trip and presented an abstract and poster (Altitude of the top of the Madison Group, Cascade County, Montana) at the Montana Section American Water Resources Association meeting in Big Sky, Montana (October 2-3, 2008). Dr. Smith also presented a talk and abstract at the Geological Society of America Annual Meeting in Houston, Texas (October 5-9, 2008) entitled: Glacial Lake Missoula: The Montana sedimentary record of multiple drainings.
- Board members from the Pacific Northwest Section of the American Industrial Hygiene Association presented a plaque to Montana Tech Safety, Health and Industrial Hygiene Faculty commemorating the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first graduating class in Occupational Safety and Health at the Northwest Occupational Health Conference on October 15, 2008, in Seattle WA. Four \$750 scholarships were awarded to Montana Tech Industrial Hygiene graduate students Austin Anderson, Mohamed Elashheb, Nicholas Holland and Tessa Spear.
- Montana Tech has joined with five other Universities in forming the Sloan Indigenous Graduate Partnership. Other founding members include the U of Arizona, U of Montana, Purdue U, U of Hawaii and the U of Alaska. The partnership seeks to increase the number of MS and PhD degrees awarded to Native Americans and Indigenous Peoples by providing financial assistance and proactive mentoring. The Partnership is funded by grants from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.
- The Rocky Mountain Agile Virtual Enterprises Technical Development Center (RAVE TDC) Creativity Forge program partnered with Knick Industries of Bozeman MT to complete precision parts for the MSU Space Science Engineering Lab Electra Project. Electra is a student-designed and -built nano-satellite soon to be launched.
- Montana Tech has received a DOE EPSCoR grant entitled "Environmental Responses to Carbon Mitigation through Geological Storage," a joint proposal with MSU, U of M and DOE National Labs. The research concerns supporting carbon sequestration and its effects on the subsurface and the environment. Professors Mary North Abbott and Dave Reichhardt from the Petroleum Engineering Department will receive about \$73,000 this year and another \$147,000 over the next two years. The funding will also support two graduate students, who will help to build an apparatus to flood core samples with supercritical carbon dioxide for varying periods of time. Pre- and post-exposure evaluations will be done on the core samples to determine whether there are physical changes due to the exposure to supercritical carbon dioxide.
- Professor Mary MacLaughlin, Geological Engineering, and Assistant Professor David Reichhardt, Petroleum Engineering, have received a NSF grant for \$488,776, entitled "MRI: Acquisition of Fiber Optic and Tiltmeter Systems for Measuring Deformations in Deep Underground Facilities."
- Graduating drafting student and Anaconda resident Kevin Stone and Jonathan Williams of Butte reverse engineered and documented a shop-built snow plow used by Anaconda-Deer Lodge Public Works Dept. Employee Mike Kovacich assembled the plow by combining a Montana DOT snow plow and an Idaho DOT snow plow. As Mike is retiring soon, information needed to be transferred to paper for future employees to construct other plows. The two students worked very closely with Mike to document the process, including measuring parts, scanning patterns, reproducing sketches and interviewing Mike.