

## **University of Montana Western**

September 2010 campus report to the Montana Board of Regents

We received notice of ongoing accreditation by the Northwest Commission of Colleges and Universities. Details, including copies of reports and letters, are on the UMW website.

The U.S. News & World Report 2011 Best Colleges rankings continue to award us high marks for quality and value, surpassing the 2010 rankings.

Montana Western ranked fifth overall for Top Public Regional Colleges in the west; 12th in the second tier of the west's Best Regional Colleges category; and 10th in the west for regional colleges in the Great Schools, Great Prices category. Also, in December 2009, Montana Western ranked second in the nation among "30 well-regarded and affordable colleges with lots of small classes."

Phase I of the deferred maintenance project and restoration of historic Main Hall is about complete and work has begun on phase II. The project, funded by state dollars and stimulus funds (AARA) will make a significant difference in the quality of classrooms at UMW and provided jobs and income for a number of state and local contractors. The Beier auditorium will also see renovation and a campaign to assist that effort with private funds will be launched by the UMW Foundation this fall.

Dr. Megan Chilson received the Dave Oberly Striving For Excellence Award from the Montana Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (MTAHPERD) when the organization held its annual conference in Dillon. Dr. Chilson, now Past President of MTAHPERD and faculty member at Montana Western, was given the award for her work with her students at UMW as well as her volunteer efforts with MTAHPERD. Gerriuh Nay, UMW Health/PE student was appointed to the MTAHPERD Board as the Student Representative from UMW.

UMW assistant director of ITS and author and humorist Joe Barnhart, published another article—"The Cowboys' Gentleman" -- in the September October 2010 edition of Montana Magazine.

The Student Support Services (SSS) application submitted by UMW under the FY 2010 SSS Competition for New Awards was selected for funding. The new grant award will commence on September 1, 2010. The TRIO SSS award, for over a million dollars, provides five more years of dedicated support for our low-income, first-generation and disabled students.

Chancellor Richard Storey was selected by his president/chancellor colleagues to be the Frontier Conference representative to the NAIA on the council of presidents in Kansas City.