

University of Montana Western (2)

November 2013 campus report to the Board of Regents (taken primarily from our website)

This fall another UMW faculty member will be named the 2013 Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching Montana Professor of the Year. The name is required to be kept confidential until the Foundation makes the official announcement in November. This will be our 5th winner in a row.

The University of Montana Western climbed a spot this year and is ranked as the third Top Public Regional Colleges of the West in the 2014 U.S. News & World Report Best College rankings.

We continue to develop our long-standing two-year programs with associate degrees and expand our certificates offerings. Accordingly, our students are realizing success in two-year programs. New students pursuing an associate's degree have increased 22% (90 headcount) in the past 10 years. During the past five years, associate student enrollment represents nearly 30% of the incoming class. Two year completions are up as well. Associate degree completions averaged 15% of all degrees awarded between 2007 and 2011. Since 2012, associate degree completions averaged 22% of all degrees awarded.

Amanda Kortum, a cellular & molecular biology major, is already making a name for herself in her field. In 2010, Kortum presented her research on a protein involved in causing the yeast *Candida albicans* to become pathogenic at the Montana Academy of Sciences at Montana Tech, the National Conference on Undergraduate Research at the University of Montana, and the University of Montana Western Research Symposium. She was also recently awarded a research fellowship by the American Society for Microbiology (ASM). Kortum views the recent presentations and fellowship as another stepping stone in her educational career here and is already looking ahead towards graduate school and a joint DVM/PHD program. "Those programs are very competitive," Kortum admits. "But with the ASM fellowship, previous work, and the professors at Montana Western, I think I have a good educational resume built up."

Montana Governor Steve Bullock made a stop in September at the University of Montana Western as a part of his state wide "Back to School" tour of education institutions throughout the state. While at Montana Western, the governor joined leaders in the administration and in the university's teacher education, school of outreach and early childhood education programs. Bullock said it was important for him to make the stop in Dillon because half of the student body will go on to be educators, and he wanted to explore the university's unique block scheduling with the Experience One program. As part of his visit, Bullock also visited a classroom that puts to use the experiential learning technique that is promoted by the Experience One program, in which a student takes one class for three hours a day for three weeks. Bullock visited students of Deb McCabe's education class and observed block scheduling firsthand.

Four-hundred and seventy-eight students were named to the 2013 Spring Semester Dean's List at the University of Montana Western. "Montana Western faculty have consistently elevated their expectations for academic performance in the classroom, yet the number named to the dean's list has increased," Chancellor Storey said. "This greater student success is another example of the effectiveness of Experience One and how it supports experiential learning and enriches the unique university experience on our campus. It also speaks to the high quality and dedication of our faculty and staff and recent initiatives in academic advising and the learning center." To achieve this recognition, students must be enrolled full-time and carry a minimum 3.33 grade point average.

The University of Montana Western Foundation along with the art department dedicated the Emerick Art Studio on September 27 this fall. Mary Baker Emerick was a professor of art at Montana Western from 1925-1968. She truly left her legacy at Montana Western not only as a professor but in the form of a trust that provides scholarships, books and supplies for the art department.