

Date: April 7, 2014

To: Board of Regents

From: Daniel J. Bingham, Ph.D.
Dean/CEO, Helena College University of Montana

Subject: Campus Report for May 22-23, 2014, Board of Regents Meeting

- Helena College-UM underwent its Year Three review by the NWCCU during the week of March 17-21st. Feedback from evaluators was extremely positive overall, with the College receiving Commendations for its onboarding process for new hires, and for the creation of a strong College Advisory Committee consisting of community and business leaders who support and assist the College with fulfillment of its Mission and Core Themes. The College also received written compliments from the evaluation committee on the academic rigor and integrity of its expanded programs in support of the Comprehensive Two Year College Mission, on its integration of library and information resources throughout its academic programming, on its expanded and improved advisement processes, and on its conservative and fiscally responsible budget preparation process.
- Helena College UM held a “Parent’s Night” on April 23rd for local high school parents and students. Lt. Governor Angela McLean was the featured speaker at the event. The main purpose of the event was to share information about expanded Dual Enrollment opportunities, newly-created technical and vocational career pathways, new Articulation agreements allowing local students to complete bachelor’s degrees online with various MUS 4-year institutions, and our new Honors program pathways to the Honors college programs at the state’s two flagship schools.
- Helena College was awarded the 2014 Diana Hacker TYCA (Two-Year College Association) Outstanding Program Award for Enhancing Developmental Education for Karen Henderson’s program, “Publishing in Developmental Writing.” Henderson attended the Conference on College Composition and Communication in Indianapolis in March and received the award at the TYCA Awards Breakfast.
- In fall 2013 Helena College participated in the Survey of Entering Student Engagement (SENSE), a national survey of student engagement at 85 two-year colleges facilitated by the Center for Community College Student Engagement at the University of Texas at Austin. The survey is given to entering students at the end of their first month of enrollment to analyze student behaviors and institutional practices that affect student success.



Helena College writing instructor Karen Henderson was awarded the 2014 Diane Hacker TYCA (Two Year College English Association) Award for Outstanding Programs in English.

Survey results demonstrated that Helena College scored above the cohort average on 4 out of 6 benchmarks with significant improvements on 5 of the benchmarks from previous SENSE survey results in fall 2010. The college's survey results are made available to the public at http://www.ccsse.org/sense/survey/profiles/public_profile.cfm?ccsse_id=18027600&SENSEyear=2013 and can also be found on the college's website at http://www.umhelena.edu/abouthc/institutional_research/institutional_surveys.aspx.

- Helena College held a TRiO Day event in which 57 attended to make Valentines cards for local Nursing Homes; 13 Participants were assisted in applying to a 4 year college; 95 % of the participants are in good academic standing; 2 TRiO students were selected for entry into the Helena College nursing program.
- In late February, Helena College food service undertook a small rebranding campaign. Renamed simply *The Grill*, the food service now concentrates on fresh burgers and grilled chicken sandwiches at an affordable price. The response has been overwhelmingly positive.
- Helena College has 163 degree candidates for spring graduation, and Senator Jon Tester has agreed to be the Commencement Speaker for the graduation ceremony.
- Fourteen Helena College Learning Center tutors began their tutor training, the first step in becoming a certified tutoring program. As of eight weeks into the Spring 2014 semester, the ACCUTRACK student recording system recorded 617 students utilizing the Helena College Learning Center.
- The month of April 2014 will be Starfish training month where Helena College advisors will be stationed in the Student Center during the busiest part of the school day to assist students with operating the Starfish system.
- Helena College Director of Student Success Rick Caron will assume the chair position of the Montana ACT Council on April 9th for a one year commitment.
- Helena College has sent out roughly 800 financial aid awards for the 2014-2015 to date.
- Helena College launched our version of the Clothesline Project in efforts to bring awareness to Sexual Violence.
- Helena College has expanded the Professional Customer Service Certificate program with the Department of Revenue to 90 hours and revised the curriculum. Students who have declared their interest in academic credit must do so within 15 days of the course starting. Students successfully completing the course are eligible for 6 credits which articulate to the Customer Service Strategies (TASK150) and Office Success Strategies (TASK210). These two courses are found within several certificates and degrees within the Accounting and Business Technology and Office Technology programs. This contract has been revised and is targeted to start the second session in May. This is both a non-credit and credit program designed to assist current employees to be better prepared in their job. We have two students from the first class that are applying to Helena College as part time students.
- Helena College was approached by local law enforcement to offer Reserve Police Officer Training locally to meet the needs of our local workforce. Continuing Education has been working with Academics to review curriculum for potential prior learning assessment toward academic programs. We are currently taking registrations and the first class will begin this June.

- Helena College Continuing Education is working with the provider of our curriculum and training for Certified Clinical Medical Assistant to receive their National Certification for Phlebotomy training at the same time they complete the CCMA National Certification. This program runs twice a year and has gone from 4 students to 11 students.