



Date: August 1, 2014

To: Board of Regents

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

Subject: Campus Report for September 17-18, 2014, Board of Regents Meeting

- This past spring Helena College completed the first progress report for its 2012-2022 Strategic Plan. The progress report was coordinated and reviewed by the Strategic Planning and Assessment group. The progress report will be published to the campus community in fall 2014 and will show the current status of the various objectives and strategies that support the college's six strategic goals. Additionally the group also worked on improving alignment between the Strategic Plan and Core Themes to support its regional accreditation through the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU).
- Lewis and Clark County received an EPA Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training grant of which Helena College is a partner for training and support services.
- Helena College completed the first non-credit Reserve Officer Training Certificate program in June.
- The SWAMMEI/TAACCCT program at Helena College is progressing nicely with new equipment being purchased, curriculums finalized, classes posted on the schedule and additional staff being hired. We have had over 80 contacts with potential students showing interest in the expansion of our technical programs through SWAMMEI. A consolidated effort by the staff is being made to implement the program before classes begin on August 25.
- Helena College is in the process of purchasing \$521,792 for new equipment to enhance and expand our technical programs. This currently includes equipment for the welding and diesel disciplines. Procurement for more equipment in these programs, as well as machining and math are forthcoming.
- Helena College has made the following hires related to the TAACCCT: two Diesel instructors, a Machining instructor, a Welding instructor, two Math instructors, a Program Coordinator, and a Workforce Navigator.
- Helena College has created and is implementing an Advising Guidebook for all members of the college community (Staff and Faculty advisors) highlighting best advising practices, tips for effective advising sessions and successful use of technology (Banner/Faculty Tool Kit and Starfish). This guidebook was developed based on the knowledge student success/retention/completion is directly tied to quality academic advising.

- Helena College has outreached to Sodexo to offer food services to the students and employees at Helena College. Helena College will also be offering food services at the Airport Campus.
- As a result of the changes made to the distribution of aid to students and the implementation of Starfish, Helena College reduced the amount of Federal aid returned to total \$132,729.00
- Through our University of Montana affiliation, Helena College has secured Qualtrics Research Suite. This robust web-based software system provides a platform for building, distributing and reporting on surveys. In fall 2014 the Office of Institutional Research will develop best practice guidelines for survey development, administration and analysis, and collaborate with Academic Affairs, Student Services, and Plant/Fiscal on conversion/consolidation of all existing college surveys in to the Qualtrics platform.
- Helena College students can take advantage of a new free Academic Testing Center this fall that brings placement, accommodative, exam makeup, and distance learning proctored testing into one, easy to access facility.
- Helena College has signed formal articulation agreements with MSU Billings and MSU Northern for online degree completion leading to bachelor's degrees in Health Administration and Criminal Justice, respectively. The College is working with four other programs to complete similar agreements this fall.
- Helena College psychology faculty member Nathan Munn, M.D., has completed the first half of a 2-year research project working with state mental health officials to measure program impacts. The data collected and analyzed by Dr. Munn will be used by state agencies to improve service delivery for those with mental illness.
- The library at Helena College has taken several steps this summer to improve service delivery to all students including traditional transfer-bound, trades, and online students. We have hired a new eLearning librarian, partnered with faculty to integrate information technology into college success classes, and redesigned spaces to better accommodate all of our students' needs.
- The first steps to creating a fully functional Airport Campus lecture/presentation/demonstration room for campus and community training needs have been taken. In the future, the College hopes to add high quality multimedia functionality and adaptive furnishings to increase the options for use of the space.
- Helena College is currently undergoing the remodel of four restrooms that to the best of the campus's knowledge haven't been updated since they were originally built in the 1960's. The renovations include creating a 'mother's room' to serve the needs of nursing mothers on campus.
- Helena College students now have the ability to apply on-line for a deferred payment plan.