



MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION

2500 Broadway – PO Box 203201 – Helena, Montana 59620-3201
(406) 444-6570 – FAX (406) 444-1469

Two-Year and Community College Committee

2014/2015 Work Plan

The Two-Year and Community College Education Committee will focus on five strategic areas during FY15:

1. Implementation of Developmental Education Reform Recommendations (Developmental Education Council)
2. Growth and Enhancement of Dual Credit Opportunities Across Montana (Dual Credit Taskforce)
3. Focus on Pillar One of Main Street Montana: Train and Educate Tomorrow's Workforce Today
4. Implementing Two-Year Education Metrics for Performance-Based Funding
5. Prepare for Carl D. Perkins Pending Reauthorization

In addition, the Committee recognizes a continuation of efforts previously begun, including:

- Comprehensive Two-Year Mission Integration
- K-12 Secondary to Postsecondary Partnerships/Pathways
- Two-Year Education Branding/Rebranding

Each of the above areas of focus will include the need to engage and partner with Montana's Tribal colleges.

FY15 Areas of Committee Focus:

Focus #1: Developmental Education Council Goals (Joint 2-year/4-year College Goals)

- Develop and recommend to the Board policy recommendations related to completion of developmental education courses and a statewide guidelines for student placement by September 2014.
- Scale co-requisite options for college-level math and writing courses and technology-assisted emporium-style initiatives including EdReady through the support of the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation via a partnership with the University of Montana in partnership with the Montana Digital Academy throughout FY15.

- Develop and recommend Board policy recommendations via two faculty disciplinary councils focused on both placement and intervention strategies associated with improving student placement and success in college level math and writing courses by May 2015 BOR.
- Through the Math Placement Council develop a singular system-wide math placement based on multiple measures by May 2015 BOR.
- Building Math Pathways into Programs of Study (ongoing FY15):
 - Convening a taskforce of math faculty.
 - Participate in the annual college completion metrics data submission process.
 - Gather the necessary data to inform the work of the math taskforce.
 - Audit program requirements across disciplines.
 - Work across disciplines to encourage appropriate math requirements in a systematic way.
 - Work to adjust institutional articulation agreements to ensure transferability of math courses.
 - Design co-requisite math courses to support student success in the new math pathways.

Focus #2: Growth and Enhancement of Dual Credit Opportunities

- Promote and implement Credit for Credit Dual Credit Incentive Program across the State throughout FY15.
- Develop strategies and mechanisms for increasing awareness of dual credit:
 - Participation in statewide educator conferences (MACTE and MEA).
 - Deliver e-Blast news briefs about dual credit through a partnership with the Montana Digital Academy.
 - Through a partnership with the Student Assistance Foundation (SAF) provide outreach services to high school juniors and seniors as well as counselors and teachers.
 - Create a new user-friendly Dual Credit website on the www.mus.edu page including easy to navigate access to each of the State's public and tribal dual credit programs; information for parents, teachers, and counselors, and information about how to access dual credit for potential dual credit students under the age of 16.
- Work with university graduate programs to encourage the development of graduate courses designed for secondary educators and offered via online, summers, or through other delivery modalities.

- Revise and clarify dual enrollment guidelines:
 - Update based on changed policies and practices
 - Present to BOR for approval at May 2015 meeting
- Work with the campuses to expand high school based dual credit opportunities for both university transfer and Career and Technical Education workforce preparation courses.

Focus #3: Pillar One of Main Street Montana: Train and Education Tomorrow's Workforce Today

- Recommend policies and strategies to the Commissioner and the BOR from the Statewide Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) Taskforce by May 2015 BOR.
- Continue with Main Street Montana partnership efforts with the Montana Department of Labor and Industry including industry sector strategy analysis.
- Make recommendations to improve collaboration and responsiveness of Montana's workforce training programs to be more flexible and responsive in meeting identified industry workforce needs.
- Develop and implement strategies for increasing responsiveness to Montana's adult learners:
 - Stackable credentials
 - Credit for Prior Learning
 - Flexible delivery
- Engage industry partners – develop strategies to better link postsecondary education and industry: 1) identify training needs; 2) availability of workforce training; 2) cost effectiveness; 3) industry needs; and 4) strategies to better engage and link industry.
- Seek sources of external funding through federal, state, and private grants to expand Montana's postsecondary workforce development efforts and capabilities.
- Continue the role of the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education to help identify opportunities for and coordinate the writing and facilitate implementation of statewide consortia workforce development grants.

Focus #4: Establishment of Two-Year Education Metrics for Performance Based Funding

- Work with Performance-Based Funding Taskforce to implement two-year college performance based funding metrics and allocation strategy.

Focus #5: Prepare for Carl D. Perkins Pending Reauthorization

- The Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education is the Lead Education Agency in partnership with the Office of Public Instruction for Montana's approximate 5.1 million in US Department of Education Funds to support access to Career and Technical Education in Montana's high schools and two-year, community, and tribal colleges. Perkins legislation may be reauthorized as soon as FY16 which would mandate the development of a new state plan. Goals for FY15 include:
 - Develop a strategic plan for Montana's Carl D. Perkins grant to be used as a baseline for developing the new state plan.
 - Further integrate the Montana Department of Labor and Industry into the State's Carl D. Perkins Big Sky Pathways planning process.
 - Continue with Big Sky Pathways implementation and increased integration of CTE dual credit opportunities.

Ongoing Two-Year and Community College Education Initiatives:

The Two-Year and Community College Education Committee recognizes and supports the continuing work of the two-year colleges in Montana including:

Comprehensive Two-Year Mission Integration

- Continue supporting extension of comprehensive two-year mission to City College at MSU Billings, Gallatin College MSU, Great Falls College MSU, Helena College UM, Highlands College of MT Tech, Bitterroot College UM, and Missoula College UM.
- Present updates to the BOR on progress of comprehensive two-year mission expansion at each of the colleges.
- Better align and integrate College Access initiatives with federal access programs including GEAR UP and Educational Talent Search (ETS).

K-12 to Postsecondary Partnerships and Pathways

- Implementation of identified statewide secondary to post-secondary pathways through the Big Sky Pathways Initiative.

- Development of new joint OPI/MUS partnerships and initiatives with existing initiatives such as common core and Graduation Matters.
- Leverage data gathered from statewide ACT exams to inform planning.
- Identify strategies and suggestions to redesign the Big Sky Pathways portion of Montana Career Information System (MCIS) to make it more user friendly.
- Engage tribal colleges as full partners with secondary to postsecondary pathways.
- Continue to expand and refine efforts to implement on-ramps to postsecondary education for adults in ABE programs.

Two-Year Education Branding/Rebranding

- Continue efforts involved with the creation of statewide two-year education brand concept.
- Work with individual campuses to help deliver “success stories” about Montana’s two-year students.
- Continue efforts focused on enhancing the public image and awareness of Montana’s comprehensive two-year colleges: Determine strategies to continue to expand overall awareness of Montana’s expanded two-year education opportunities.
 - Policymakers actively support the policy agenda for an accessible and affordable two-year college system.
 - Business owners, community leaders, educators, families, students, and the media have positive perceptions of Montana’s two-year college sector.
 - Educators, families, traditional age students, and adult students are highly aware of and interested in two-year college opportunities and programs.
 - Effective pathways and relationships with four-year institutions are developed and expanded.

Partnerships

- Continue to foster and develop national Partnerships including Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Lumina Foundation for Education, and the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning.
- Build industry partnerships through initiatives such as SWAMMEI (100 plus business and industry partnerships), workforce development, and strengthen industry participation in the Career and Technical Education Business Advisory Board.
- Continue to build and strengthen interagency partnership with Montana Department of Labor and Industry and Office of Public Instruction.

The strategic areas of focus under the Two-Year and Community College Education Committee will include the key initiatives of five major grants which are administered through the Two-Year and Community College Division, including:

- College!NOW
- Bill & Melinda Gates Postsecondary Initiative
- Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation Gift for EdReady Expansion (administered by UM)
- Carl D. Perkins
- GEAR UP
- Education Talent Search
- Rigorous Program of Study (RPOS)

Planning and implementation efforts will include collaboration with the Budget, Audit Oversight, and Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Committees.