

**Student Success and Engagement Plan**  
**April 14, 2016 Submitted by Donald M. Blacketter, Chancellor**

In accordance with the performance based funding (PBF) model, this is Montana Tech's proposed plan to meet our performance funding goal and recoup the reduction. The Montana Tech north campus is currently expecting to receive \$738,810, or 85% of the campus eligible \$868,788, in PBF funding for fiscal year 2017. The information below outlines Montana Tech's "grant-back" request and proposal for \$129,978. The plan described below focuses on two areas: Student Success and Student Engagement.

**Proposal**

In the context of campus concern for improving retention and completions of our students, the Montana Tech Committee on Retention Efforts (CORE) developed an undergraduate retention plan for 2015-2018 with 4 goals. Core Retention plan goals:

- Goal 1: Help students succeed before they begin (Incoming and Returning Students);
- Goal 2: Help first-time, full-time freshman succeed through a gateway course advising philosophy
- Goal 3: Help students succeed through an Early Intervention Alert System (Freshman through Seniors)
- Goal 4: Increase persistence rates for academically "at-risk" students (Freshman through Seniors)

**Student Success**

1. This proposal item focuses on Goal 3: *Help students succeed through an Early Intervention Alert System for all undergraduate students.* In the fall of 2008 Montana Tech began a process where advisors contact freshman struggling at 40<sup>th</sup> day midterm. Our plan calls for student intervention to include 20<sup>th</sup> day midterm grades, additional offices and personnel contacting select academic at-risk populations, and grades for all entry math and chemistry classes. Residence Life will be contacting all academically at-risk student in the residence halls. Resident hall interventions will include contact by electronically and physically meeting with all at-risk students. Disability Services and counselors will be intervening with all at-risk military veterans. The plan will use the offices of Financial Aid, Enrollment Services, and Student Success.

On average 1,300 students receive at least one grade at the 20<sup>th</sup>/40<sup>th</sup> day; and, approximately 40 percent have at least one failing grade. In the fall of 2014, Montana Tech began a Freshman Engineering program with the goal to recruit, advise, teach, and retain students in engineering while providing the skills necessary to succeed in engineering. In some cases Freshman Engineering students will be advised to change majors or transfer to other Montana institutions. Freshman Engineering is the second largest program at Montana Tech; and, during the midterm process freshman engineering advisors contact more the 150 students.

To complete this task we will be allocating 20% the of Director of Freshman Engineering, Assistant Director of Freshman Engineering, Freshman Engineering Academic Advisor, Director of Student Success,

Executive Director of Enrollment Management, the North Campus Counselor, and the Director of Residence Life. **Total cost will be \$79,400.**

2. Because we know that students who take more credits and/or are progressing towards a degree often are better retained, we will also be marketing Full-Time is 15 credits. We will do this by advertising on the website and at orientation as a mechanism to push students to finish faster and more cost effectively. This marketing will involve all levels of the Marketing and Public Relations office at a 15% allocation. **The total cost will be \$21,150.**
3. In order to Increase completions we will be reaching out to stop-out students who are within one year of graduation and encourage them to return and complete their degree or certificate. This will require some additional staff time to locate and communicate with these students electronically, over the phone or text, and if possible to physically meet with these students. Enrollment services will be coordinating this effort through the Admission Evaluator Supervisor and six Admission Evaluator III's. We are allocating 20% time from our Admission Supervisor and six Admission Evaluators **for a total cost of \$39,600.**

#### **Student Engagement**

1. To increase student engagement we will be initiating a campus-wide Interdisciplinary Capstone Project Program (ICaPP). This will be initiated by providing limited summer support for one or two faculty members to get this program implemented. ICaPP will focus on bringing projects from industry, the community or established campus research programs to provide real-life and relevant projects that upon completion will culminate in our spring TechXpo symposium. Our expectation is that ICaPP will provide for excitement around the final few semesters of students' tenure, inform lower level students, and meet student skill improvements industry is demanding. **The cost for faculty effort will be \$7,000.**

**The above cost for the tasks in total is \$147,150.** The difference between the expected cost and the available \$129,978 will be made up by reallocations within our current budget. Our expectation is these tasks upon completion will result in both increased retention and the subsequent completion of students. Thank you for your consideration.