



# Efficiency & Effectiveness

## MUS Examples of Efficiency & Effectiveness

### Prescription Drug Plan

A new prescription drug program developed by the MUS (URx) is expected to reduce pharmaceutical costs for the plan by 20% and save members on average 20% of their overall out-of-pocket costs....saving millions of dollars!

### Common Course Numbering

Since 2007, more than 8,000 courses in 45 disciplines have gone through the Common Course Numbering process (representing over 80% of the undergraduate courses in the MUS). Now, courses that carry the same name and number transfer across the system on a one-to-one basis and are transparent to students and parents.

### Integrated Information Systems

- Integration of Dawson CC and Miles CC into University of Montana hosted instance of Banner
- MSU Unified Information System Project
- North Tier Network providing high speed connection between campuses, as well as to national research and education networks

### K-20 Data Linkage

Develop linkages between K-12, postsecondary, and labor information in order to produce a method for annually tracking student cohorts from high school to college to the workforce.

The third prong of the Board of Regents' Strategic Plan, in addition to improving Access and Affordability and contributing to Workforce and Economic Development in Montana, is to increase Efficiency and Effectiveness.

Throughout 2009 and 2010, the Regents' Workgroup for Reform and Reinvention explored ways to do just that....increase efficiency while simultaneously increasing degree production (effectiveness) throughout the MUS. The end result of the Workgroups' year-long effort was the development of a **Success Agenda** that not only provides a road map for increasing efficiency and effectiveness, but concentrates on maintaining a high quality, affordable education for all Montanans.

### SUCCESS AGENDA

In order to increase the overall educational attainment of Montanans and provide an efficient and effective system of higher education, the Regents' Workgroup on Reform and Reinvention recommends that nine key elements be undertaken to achieve a *Success Agenda* in the Montana University System.

1. **Institutional Role Differentiation** – Define distinct roles for the MUS institutions and align those roles with policies and practices that work to improve student success and the efficient/effective delivery of programs
2. **Admission Standards** - Utilize multiple criteria in admissions policies to help align students with the university/college that matches their academic preparation, goals, and abilities
3. **Transferability** - Ensure seamless transferability among institutions through a system of common course numbering and universal transfer core curriculum
4. **Community College Programs** - Increase utilization, enrollment and degree production in community college programs (see College!Now)
5. **Need-based Financial Aid** - Work to develop strategies to reduce unmet student need and increase the amount of need-based student aid
6. **Program and Service Alignment** - Focus programming and services to eliminate unnecessary/undesired duplication and align development, expansion, and contraction with consistently assessed workforce demands; increase investment in research and graduate programming
7. **Performance-Based Funding** - Connect achievement in key performance areas with aspects of funding; align targeted outcomes with institutional type through purposeful allocation of resources to areas of excellence and specialization.
8. **Data & Information** – Work to integrate data and information systems in order to increase student access and services, improve administrative efficiencies and academic coordination, as well as produce quality data
9. **Communication & Advocacy** - Develop a focused marketing and public relations strategy to increase support for higher education