



DATE: August 13, 2012

TO: Board of Regents

FROM: Daniel J. Bingham, PhD
Dean/CEO
Helena College University of Montana

RE: Campus Update Report for the Sept., 2012 Board of Regents' Meeting

- To date the Advising, Learning, and Career Center has registered 383 students. Of these, 299 were students new to Helena College and 84 were re-admitted students.
- The College hosted the AHEAD of the Northern Rockies annual affiliate meeting in May. Cindy Yarberry, Director of Disability and Veterans Services, was elected president-elect for the 2012-13 school year.
- The Director of Disability and Veterans Services attended the annual AHEAD conference in New Orleans in July, serving as the affiliate representative.
- The Director of Disability and Veterans Services and the VA Certifying Official attended annual VA training at Ft. Harrison in June.
- There were 116 students with disabilities registered in the spring 2012 term and 118 students with GI Bill benefits served.
- Those students receiving VA benefits outperformed their counterparts in their cohorts in the areas of cumulative GPA for the fall of 2011, in spring 2012 completions, and in both fall 2009 and fall 2010 retention rates.
- Financial Aid has disbursed a total of \$11,362,185.09 to students for the 2011-2012 academic year.
- Financial Aid has offered over \$15 million in aid thus far for the 2012-2013 aid year.
- Financial Aid staff have created new processes in Banner (our student information database) to accommodate new federal regulations for verifications and student academic progress is being made.
- Financial Aid is creating a program to help increase financial literacy on campus as well as decrease the student loan default rate.
- The Director of Financial Aid, Valerie Curtin, was recently elected to the Vice President position of the Rocky Mountain Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators for 2012-2013.

- As the Montana Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators representative on the Montana College Access Network, Valerie Curtin is a part of a group developing more efficient and effective ways in assisting all Montanan's obtain their educational goals.
- The Director of Financial Aid, Valerie Curtin just attended the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators Conference in Chicago, IL.
- The Scholarship & Work Study Coordinator, Renae Novak, completed the Rocky Mountain Association of Student Financial Aid Administrator's Summer Institute. This is the premier training for all financial aid administrators in the nation.
- Dean Daniel Bingham spoke to the Hometown Helena group on Thursday, July 26th regarding the new name of the college, our strategic plan and our mission. The Mayor of Helena was presented with newly unveiled Helena College logo apparel.
- We continue to feature our students in Helena College advertisements as we want our community to know our students and their message. "We are Helena College."
- Helena College participated in the Montana Counselor Tour. The University of Montana hosted more than 50 college counselors from across the United States on July 24th with presentations from UM, MT Tech, Helena College and UM Western.
- New Student Orientation was held August 16th & 17th and approximately 200 students attended. The theme for orientation was 'Our Community' and efforts to continue this theme are underway through various events taking place during the academic year. Presentations included financial literacy, work-study and scholarship opportunities and information from all Student Service departments on campus.
- New Student Orientation changed its focus from an information service approach to a student development approach providing time for students to develop connections with each other.
- Recruiter Megan Groetzke attended a Yellow Ribbon Event on July 14th in Helena. This 30-Day Post-Deployment event welcomed 53 service members.
- The Registrar's Office awarded and mailed 166 diplomas for the Spring 2012 semester. There was an 8% increase in the number of degrees awarded for the 11-12 academic year versus the 10-11 academic year.
- Admissions has processed 570 applications for the fall 2012 semester and 383 new students have registered for the fall 2012 semester. Although this equates to an increase in 12% applications processed during the same time frame, it reveals a decrease in 4% in application to enrollment yield.
- Admissions and other departments are reaching students who have completed a minimum of 45 credits, but stopped attending in hopes they will return to the college to finish their degree. Return2Learn efforts will continue throughout the academic year.
- Our Retail Services department opened a Coffee Counter, to the universal joy of staff, faculty, and most importantly, students. Hours of service will be expanded this year to ensure customer needs are being met.
- The book store has undertaken the efforts to order more used texts in an attempt to keep student costs at a minimum.
- In conjunction with the Math faculty, the book store is conducting on-going assessments to determine student satisfaction with text-less on-line math courses.

- Retail services have upgraded it's software system to improve efficiency and communication between all three Retail Services operations.
- Over the summer the TRiO program has provided 53 hours of tutoring for student participants.
- In an attempt to reach the 140 student threshold, the TRiO program has 23 students to replace at this time and over 150 eligible students are interested in participating in the program.
- This past spring, TRiO graduated 8 students with either an associate degree or a certificate.
- Division Chair and one faculty member attended the Rigorous Programs of Study (RPOS) Literacy-in-CTE kickoff in Billings.
- Division chair completed hiring processes for three new full-time faculty.
- Academic team attended a planning retreat to identify goals and activities for the upcoming year.
- Academic leaders met with dual credit principals and superintendents to create a plan for dual credit offerings for the upcoming year.
- The Donaldson parking lot project was completed.
- An air conditioning unit was purchased and installed. With the addition of this unit, the college can now provide cooling to all areas of the Donaldson campus.
- The financial closing process for fiscal year 2012 has been completed and fiscal year 2013 is open for entry.
- Helena College is pursuing approval of a project to provide elevator access to second floor areas that are currently only available by stairs. Once the project is complete, Helena College will have access to approximately 2000 square feet of additional office/classroom space.
- The Voice over Internet protocol (VOIP) phone system installation has been completed and the new phones are in service. This system includes the capability of video phone calls with ours who have similar systems.
- The fiscal year 2013 budget has been loaded into Banner.
- Helena College has implemented a single login protocol for all staff and students.