



DATE: January 18, 2013
TO: Board of Regents
FROM: Daniel J. Bingham, Ph.D.
Dean/CEO
Helena College University of Montana
RE: Campus Update Report for the March 7 – 8, 2013 Board of Regents Meeting

- The TRiO SSS enabled a TEAS prep course for students applying into the nursing program.
- 87% of TRiO participants are in good academic standing.
- Barb McAlmond, Helena College marketing and communications coordinator, has been named to the Board of Directors of Youth Connections, which focuses on preventing and reducing substance abuse and violence.
- Cindy Yarberry, Helena College director of disability and veterans resources has joined the board of directors of the Montana Veterans Foundation.
- The Diversity Committee sponsored the Montana Silent Witness display, an exhibition of wooden cutouts representing the women killed through domestic violence in Montana since 1990.
- Veterans Resources served 130 veteran students this fall by certifying their credits and providing other services.
- The Advising, Learning, and Career Center purchased Career Spot videos that can be viewed through the Helena College Website.
- Financial Aid met one-on-one with students who have reached the limit for Federal student loan eligibility, Pell Grant eligibility and/or are at the maximum number of credits allowed.
- Financial Aid disbursed \$9.6 million for the 2012-2013 AY to date (1/14/2012).
- Financial Aid disbursements increased by 116% from 2008-2009 to 2011-2012.
- Valerie Curtin, director of financial aid was elected Vice President of the Rocky Mountain Association of Financial Aid Administrators.
- The Admissions Office implemented an online application process reducing data entry and allowing students to pay online.
- The Registrar's Office awarded 40 degrees at the end of the fall 2012 semester, which is consistent with the average number of degrees posted over the last five fall semesters.
- The Admissions Office processed 381 degree seeking applications for the spring 2013 semester. At this point in time 64% of those applicants have registered for the spring semester.
- Helena College has begun a remodeling project that will provide ADA access to second floor which will include office space, classroom space and a testing lab for computer based tests.
- Helena College has installed the initial set of electronic locks on the Airport campus outer doors, a system which logs all entry events including the ID of the user. The entire building can be locked down from a single computer terminal, and access authority deactivated. The funding for this project came from a grant received through the State of Montana.
- Helena College has installed Automated Electronic Defibrillators (AED) in both campus buildings and will hold training sessions. The funding for this project came from a Workers Comp Committee Safety Smart grant.

- Helena College has purchased a three-dimensional printer for use in the machine tooling program, which enables students to test the accuracy of their computer models in inexpensive plastic. This item was purchased through Perkins grant funds.
- Helena College hosted the Helena School District's Gifted and Talented program in collaboration with UM Western's Industrial Technology Education program build physical science props which are used in the Gifted and Talented program and at Exploration Works.
- Helena College's Interior Space Planning and Design program and Continuing Education department partnered to provide a study abroad opportunity to students and the community in Rome and Florence Italy. The focus of the course is Architectural Design History.
- Elyse Lovell, Psychology Instructor presented a study on *Predictors for intrinsic motivation: Students' ages and project based learning environments among undergraduate psychology students*, at the 2012 American Higher Education Alliance (AHEA) /American Association for Adult and Continuing Education (AAACE) Conferences. This study will be published in McGill, C.B., King, K.P (Eds.), *Developing and Sustaining Adult Learners*. Charlotte, NC: Information Age Publishing, Inc.
- Dr. Elyse Lovell and Dr. Nathan Munn attended and presented at the National Institute on the Teaching of Psychology. Their paper will be presented at the National Institute on the Teaching of Psychology Conference.
- 49 Introduction to Psychology students presented research posters displaying their chosen substantive topics.
- Karen Henderson, Writing Instructor, is serving on the new Statewide Developmental Education Task Force which convened on December 17th. Henderson will serve on subcommittees studying assessment/placement and remedial course design.
- Students in Karen Henderson's Writ 095 class published a book of essays (second volume) based on the NPR "This I Believe" series. The book, titled *Reflections*, is available in the Helena College library or for purchase at Blurb.com.
- Helena College won the Institution Reboot contest sponsored by the National Alliance for Mental Illness – Montana (NAMI-MT). The purpose of the contest was to receive input from Montana citizens and organizations who currently are not affiliated within the mental health system to give ideas on how to improve the mental health care delivery system. Helena College Psychology Instructor Nathan Munn along with five psychology students submitted a proposal.
- Helena College's Year Three Self-Study Report and evaluation site visit from the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) has been postponed one year to the spring semester of 2014. The College Council will steer the yearlong self-study which will commence in February 2013.
- This spring semester, Helena College will administer the 2013 Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) and the Standardized Assessment of Information Literacy Skills (SAILS). These national survey instruments provide valuable data and benchmarks for assessing student engagement in and out of the classroom as well as the development of information literacy skills, an institutional competency expected of all Helena College graduates.
- Director of the College Readiness Program, Jan Clinard, Ed.D., was selected to speak on the topic, "Assessment: Longitudinal, Statewide Results and Site-based Evaluation of Student Writing by College and High School Collaborators" at the NCTE Annual Convention in Las Vegas and at the Conference on English Leadership, on "Reducing Remediation in College Writing through Sustained Leadership that Fosters Communities of Practice."