

March 6-7, 2014

**ITEM 162-1006-R0314**

**Approval of Core Themes; University of Montana**

---

**THAT**

The Board of Regents of Higher Education approve the University of Montana's Core Themes

---

**EXPLANATION**

These five core themes were developed by the University of Montana as part of the accreditation process. The mission statement and plans for academic initiatives and core themes were approved by the Montana Board of Regents March 1-2, 2010. The core themes were further developed and endorsed by the Faculty Senate and accepted by the NWCCU on August 11, 2011, as part of the university's Year One Report.

**University of Montana-Missoula Mission:**

The University of Montana--Missoula pursues academic excellence as demonstrated by the quality of curriculum and instruction, student performance, and faculty professional accomplishments. The University accomplishes this mission, in part, by providing unique educational experiences through the integration of the liberal arts, graduate study, and professional training with international and interdisciplinary emphases. The University also educates competent and humane professionals and informed, ethical, and engaged citizens of local and global communities; and provides basic and applied research, technology transfer, cultural outreach, and service benefiting the local community, region, State, nation and the world.

**University of Montana Core Themes:**

**1. Partnering for Student Success**

**Objectives**

- Preparing K-12 students
- Transitioning to college
- Integrating the early college curriculum
- Engaging students
- Strengthening student support
- Emphasizing faculty and staff development

Partnering for Student Success reflects the Mission and Vision Statements in their emphasis on ensuring student performance "by providing unique educational experiences through the integration of the liberal arts, graduate study, and professional training" and "the preparation of graduates through high-impact teaching, research, creative scholarship, and service."

**2. Education for the Global Century**

**Objectives**

- Strength in foundational academic programs
- Two-year programming responsive to local, regional, state and national needs

- Global engagement and leadership at the baccalaureate level
- Discovery and innovation through graduate education

Education for the Global Century aligns with the University's Mission and Vision Statements. It focuses on academic excellence fostered by the quality of curriculum and instruction, student performance, the provision of "unique educational experiences through the integration of the liberal arts, graduate study, and professional training with international and interdisciplinary emphases" to ensure the preparation of engaged citizens to advance economic, cultural, and social change.

### **3. Discovery and Creativity to Serve Montana and the World**

#### **Objectives**

- Enhance contributions by faculty and students through research
- Expand knowledge and cultural richness through creative scholarship
- Advance today's discoveries to tomorrow's products through technology transfer, contributing to the creation of innovations, jobs and business opportunities

Discovery and Creativity to Serve Montana and the World aligns with both the Mission and Vision Statements for UM. Discovery and creativity are essential elements of a unique educational experience that integrates liberal arts, graduate study, and professional training. In this way, the University prepares graduates that contribute to economic and cultural development.

### **4. Dynamic Learning Environment**

#### **Objectives**

- People – Lead in recruiting, retaining and developing the highest quality students, faculty and staff
- Programs – Provide programs of distinction, engaging local to worldwide partnerships, connecting programs to our unique location
- Infrastructure – Utilize technologies and practices that optimize the learning experience while modeling sustainability
- Culture – Inspire an atmosphere where engagement and passion for learning thrive
- Place – Integrate the character of the campus environment into discovery and instruction

Dynamic Learning Environment reflects both the Mission and Vision Statements. UM accomplishes its mission by "providing unique educational experiences through integration of the liberal arts, graduate study, and professional training with international and interdisciplinary emphases." UM will be "recognized as a place of opportunity for those who study and work in a dynamic learning environment. It will be a place of vitality through its academic, cultural, and athletic performance."

### **5. Planning-Assessment Continuum**

#### **Objectives**

- Linkage of plans and resources
- Transparent and participative processes throughout the cycle
- Data-driven decisions and goal setting
- Objective and timely assessment of outcomes

Planning-Assessment Continuum aligns with the Vision Statement and supports fulfillment of the UM

Mission: "We will realize our mission and vision through continuous, intentional integration of planning, budgeting, implementation, and assessment. The University of Montana will drive economic, cultural, and social development of Montana and the Northern Rockies."

---

**ATTACHMENTS**

None