

THE UNIVERSITY *of* MONTANA WESTERN

DATE: Monday, August 15, 2016
TO: Montana Board of Regents
FROM: Beth Weatherby, chancellor
SUBJECT: Campus Report for the September 2016 Board of Regents meeting

UMW ranked best Montana university by Money Magazine.

The University of Montana Western was recently named best college in Montana by MONEY MAGAZINE in their annual “Best Colleges” report.

The report cited Montana Western’s Experience One program, affordable tuition, small class size and location as reasons for the ranking.

Montana Western establishes relationship with Blackfeet Community College.

University of Montana Western early childhood education faculty and staff have formed a partnership with BLACKFEET COMMUNITY COLLEGE (BCC) to assist in teacher preparation on the reservation.

Montana Western’s JEN GILLIARD, early childhood education program director, and VIKKI HOWARD, education department chair, worked with DEE HOYT, BCC education and health division chair, to address the critical need for Native American teacher training.

With input from prospective students, community stakeholders, Browning School District administrators and teachers, and BCC staff and faculty, the group designed a program to address the challenge.

Eighteen students from the Browning area have applied for admission to UMW and the university has scheduled three hybrid early childhood education courses in Browning this fall.

Montana Western professor visits Afghanistan university.

FRED CHILSON, professor of business and technology at the University of Montana Western, recently returned from a trip to Kabul, Afghanistan.

Chilson traveled to Afghanistan to visit Dunya University in his capacity as vice chair of the International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education (IACBE) and accreditation site team advisor.

As part of his IACBE duties, Chilson visits colleges throughout the country and world to study their business programs for accreditation.

During his 10-day stay in Afghanistan, Chilson also met with the country’s minister of education, members of parliament and military leaders.

Montana Western is restoring the “M.”

Work has begun on restoring the “M” HILLSIDE LETTER above Dillon, Mont.

The restoration process is a collaborative effort involving Montana Western administration, faculty, students and alumni; the Beaverhead Trails Coalition; U.S. Forest Service; Bureau of Land Management; USDA; and community members.

UMW biology and environmental sciences classes will assist restoring native vegetation this fall.

The original “M” was constructed in 1920 and was made possible by a donation of \$400 from the Montana State Normal College class of 1919.

Montana Western ranks in the top 10 nationally for students with children

The University of Montana Western has been ranked the seventh "best college for students with children" by the online site, BEST COLLEGES.

Best Colleges is an online college ranking guide providing higher education information to students.

The website includes 50 colleges and universities that provide a specific set of amenities for students with children, while still managing to be relatively inexpensive in terms of tuition and administrative fees.

Best Colleges cited Montana Western's family housing options among its reasons for the ranking.

Campus Legacy Plaza nears completion.

The LEGACY PLAZA project is nearing completion as bricks have been laid, the amphitheater is complete and trees are being planted throughout the area.

The plaza will include personalized bricks which can be purchased through the university's Foundation office.

Legacy Plaza is one part of the overall Legacy Campaign which includes renovation and restoration of Main Hall.

Construction is expected to be complete by the start of classes on Aug. 29.

The renovation of the final phase of the Main Hall complex is also nearing completion including restoring the original college library for use as a state-of-the-art model classroom.

Montana Western students busy this summer.

Junior SHARON WILLIAMS has been spending her summer interning with the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) in Boulder, Colo. The organization's competitive internship program is designed to provide qualified undergraduates with real-world summer work experience in their chosen field.

ASUMW President DELANEY HANSEN is spending the summer commuting from Dillon to Twin Bridges, Mont., volunteering at Pride Summer Group (PSG) as part of her pursuit of an elementary education degree from Montana Western. PSG is a children's camp where Hansen is part of a group that teaches 30 students ranging from kindergarten to fifth grade.

ASUMW Vice President KELSIE FIELD is working for the local Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks office. Her responsibilities include inspecting boats for aquatic invasive species (AIS) at a station on Interstate 15 south of Dillon.

UMW professor Megan Chilson assists with creation of statewide K-12 health standards.

MEGAN CHILSON, professor of health and human performance, has been assisting in the development and adoption of new health and physical education standards for K-12 public schools in Montana.

The standards were last updated 17 years ago. New guidelines tackle issues such as obesity, mental health and cyberbullying.

Chilson has been involved with the update project since 2014, serving with state health and physical education teachers.

The new standards went into effect in July 2016.