



DATE: Wednesday, May 2, 2018
TO: Montana Board of Regents
FROM: Beth Weatherby, Chancellor
SUBJECT: Campus Report for the May 2018 Board of Regents Meeting

Grant Supports Partnership to Increase Indigenous Educators

A \$1M Federal Office of Indian Education grant supports a partnership between Blackfeet Community College (BCC), the Browning Public Schools and the University of Montana Western.

Multiple outcomes are targeted by the grant, but the most important objective is to design and implement a sustainable program that will address the long-existing shortage of teachers serving Indigenous children on the Blackfeet Reservation.

Through this grant, Montana Western and BCC have recruited Blackfeet faculty to design and deliver a K8-UMW curriculum for educators who teach or will teach in the Browning schools.

Montana Western Ranked Nationally for Child Development Degree Programs

The program was ranked among the top four by Schools.com, an online education resource, and published in their list, "Best Colleges for Child Development Degree Programs 2017-18."

The ranking is based on factors including affordability, flexibility and student success. The University of Montana Western offers multiple degree options for the unique needs and education of children, ranging in age from early childhood to 12th grade.

The degree offerings apply Montana Western's unique experiential learning model, called Experience One, and provide flexibility through in-class and online course options.

May Report 2018

Montana Western Students Contribute to the Cultural and Economic Landscape of Dillon

In an article by The Montana Standard, the numerous contributions of students to the Dillon community were presented.

In the Fall of 2017, UMW boasted a head count of about 1,500 students, who pay rent, patronize restaurants and shop in the community in which they reside.

In addition to contributing to the local economy, University Foundation Director Roxanne Engellant said University of Montana Western students add diversity to Dillon and Beaverhead County.

"We have students who are talented artists, musicians, thespians, athletes and much more."

Adrianna Pittman Receives Scholarship for Civic Engagement

UMW student, Adrianna Pittman, could not have gotten off to a better start. She was the only freshman awarded with Montana Campus Compact's 2018 Civic Engagement Scholarship for "making significant positive changes" within her community.

As a member of the Glen Pioneers 4-H Club, Pittman was able to kick start her "Go Green" campaign which focuses on educating people about how to be more environmentally conscious.

She recently presented techniques on conserving water and reducing plastic waste at the Reichle Elementary School in her hometown.

Scholarship Announced Honoring Phyllis and Tom Welch

A scholarship from the Pioneer Federal Savings & Loan (PFS & L) Association honoring Phyllis and Tom Welch will be awarded for the first time for the 2018-2019 academic year.

Two scholarships for students in the amount of \$2,500 will be awarded annually. One of the recipients will be a high school graduate from Beaverhead County, and the other recipient will be a graduate of Powell County.

Tom Welch was with PFS & L for 42 years. Over the course of Tom's tenure with PFS & L, he and his wife spent many years assisting Montana Western and its students.

Art Club Visits International Sculpture Park

"Blackfoot Pathways: Sculpture in the Wild"
International Sculpture Park is located in Lincoln, Mont. and was visited by Montana Western art students as a field learning experience.

According to its website, the park "celebrates the rich environmental, industrial and cultural heritage of the Blackfoot Valley."

The park features an installment created by Montana Western Art Instructor Tyler Nansen.

His piece, "Bat Beacons," is comprised of 16 20-foot-tall poles positioned in a grid, each topped with a bat roosting box.

The piece serves as home for the bats, as well as an educational tool, "questioning the ways that we view art and ecology."

Student Tyler Richardson Explores Advanced Mathematics and Programming with Senior Thesis

As a highlight of Montana Western's Experience One program which focuses on creating immersive learning experiences, students present their final projects and internship experiences at the annual student research symposium each spring.

Richardson will end his tenure at Montana Western by speaking about his year-long work coding with MATLAB during the symposium.

His work with MATLAB has led him to become interested in "super edge magic labeling" and other high-level graphing mathematics. Richardson plans to someday become a statistician.

Joey Paulsonmorgan Advocates for Student Health

Education Major and HHP Minor Joey Paulsonmorgan is heavily involved in Peers Advocating Towards Health (PATH). This program is dedicated to helping people live healthier lifestyles and educates students on the dangers of tobacco.

With his fellow PATH members, Paulsonmorgan works with student representatives across the state. Recently, he did a presentation on the health effects of e-cigarettes in Kansas City, Missouri.

He believes the new Health and Human Performance Lab has been an incredible addition to the HHP Department's offerings for students.

Students no longer have to travel off-campus to conduct health tests and can utilize the department's state-of-the-art equipment.

Sculptor Crista Ann Ames Visits Campus

On December 7, 2017, visiting artist Crista Ann Ames demonstrated her sculpting techniques and spoke on her evolution as an artist with the University of Montana Western and community of Dillon, Mont.

During her demonstration, she focused on teaching art students methods for sculpting realistic hands.

Ames works in ceramics and other mediums including textiles; her exhibit focused on mythology and ancient symbols for femininity.

In addition to her educational background in art and ceramics, Ames has received several residencies and opportunities to create art all over the world.

Author Aaron Parrett Reads at Dances with Words

"Dances with Words" is produced by English Professor Alan Weltzien. The series provides the community with a unique opportunity to listen to writers reading their own works.

Author Aaron Parrett, owner and operator of Territorial Press, visited the University of Montana Western campus on Dec. 14, 2017 to read a selection from his short story collection "Maple and Lead."

Parrett creates books printed with hand-set type that can sell for up to 300 dollars due to the hours of effort that go into creating each copy.

Displaying his diverse range of talents, Parrett ended the event by speaking about the "connection between music and poetry" before performing folk music on his fiddle.

Professor Awarded Grant for Italian Residency

The grant for "Visiting Professors and Scholars" was awarded to Alan Weltzien by the University of Bergamo located in Bergamo, Italy where he will be staying for most of May, 2018.

The English Professor's research will focus on "the Italian reception of popular Western American literature and film in the mid-20th century through the present."

Weltzien believes his time in Italy will help make him a more well-rounded educator.

"I like to bring the world to Montana Western as much as I can," he said.

Spruce Schoenemann Awarded Grant to Reconstruct Climate History

University of Montana Western Assistant Professor of Geology, Geochemistry and Climate, Spruce Schoenemann was awarded a research grant from the Montana NASA Space Grant Consortium.

The grant will fund his project "Precipitation Isotope Ratios and Tree-ring based Snowpack Relationships to Inform Paleoclimate Reconstructions from Lake Sediment Cores."

This twelve-month research project aims to create a climate reconstruction based on isotope data collected from lake sediments, cross-referenced with tree ring records to provide an idea of the past climate and snowpack in Southwestern Montana going back up to 10,000 years.