



Date: August 20, 2018

To: Board of Regents

From: Kirk P. Lacy, Ed.D.
Interim Dean/CEO, Helena College University of Montana

Subject: Campus Report for September 12-13, 2018, Board of Regents Meeting

- Helena College's first LPN cohort under the new 3-semester program graduated on Aug 17th. Starting in the Fall of 2018, Helena College Nursing will have all 4 cohorts of the new ASRN program in place for a total of 64 students. The first graduates from this program will be in December 2018.
- Helena College is using eLearning Robots for students to participate in our on-campus courses remotely, implemented ADA Compliant timeline, developed standards and rubrics for evaluating Quality Design and Accessibility for online courses, provided "Quality Course Design" and "Creating Accessible Online Materials" online training for faculty, conducted Online Learning Strategies workshops for students, and coordinated across various departments and divisions on campus as their functions relate to eLearning (e.g. online tutoring, online advising, etc.) As well, the College is currently looking to strengthen our online proctoring environment to ensure academic integrity while expanding our online offerings.
- Helena College will be hosting a Community Resources & Wellness Fair September 5, 2018. A partnership with Helena Food Share will commence to help address college student hunger.
- Helena College is launching a strategic enrollment planning process. Last April, the College sent a 9-person team to an intensive executive forum facilitated by Ruffalo Noel Levitz. With the addition of a few other members of the Helena College community, this Strategic Enrollment Steering Committee has been meeting every other week and will continue through the summer as they help develop the framework to lead the campus in the creation of a comprehensive strategic enrollment plan. As part of this process, MCC President Stacy Klippenstein will visit Helena College on July 9 to facilitate a day-long retreat with the steering committee.
- In the Fall of 2016, Helena College partnered with the University of Montana to offer students the opportunity to pursue a degree in Elementary Education. This partnership allows students to obtain their Associate of Science and continue on to obtain a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education from the UM Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences without having to leave Helena. Helena College's first cohort of eight students has completed the first half of their Bachelor's degree and will be University of Montana students this fall.
- Helena College is undergoing some transition in a few administrative areas. Dr. Sandra Bauman will begin her role in July as the Associate Dean of Academic & Student Affairs following the departure of Dr. Chad Hickox. Dr. Bauman comes to us from Great Falls College MSU. While at GFC, she had a

variety of roles including Director of Business Office Services, Director of Financial Aid, Academic Advisor, Adjunct Faculty, and her most recent role, Director of Academic Success. In addition to her vast experience in Higher Ed, she earned her Doctorate in Adult and Higher Education. We look forward to Sandy joining the Helena College team. Once Dr. Bauman is on campus full time, Interim Associate Dean Mary Lannert will resume her role as the Director of Community Engagement & Workforce Development.

In the HR department, after three years of service in his role as Director, Matthew Richards has resigned from his position. Therese Collette has agreed to serve as Interim Director for the next year. Therese has over 15 years of related professional experience, including over 10 years of human resources and payroll expertise, both Associate's and Bachelor's degrees in Human Resources & Organizational Communication, and has been Helena College's Payroll & Recruitment Specialist for the past 6 years.

- Helena College graduated 14 veteran students in May 2018, and 10 of those students graduated with honors. The retention rate for Helena College veterans with educational benefits continues to remain significantly higher than all other student groups since the College began tracking the data in 2009.
- The Helena College TRIO SSS program graduated 37 students this Spring with 21 of those students receiving honors. Helena College's TRIO program provides services to 140 students annually and recently launched *Necessary Narratives* where students tell their story. Twenty students participated in this narrative.
- Helena College is partnering with the Helena Chamber of Commerce and other Helena stakeholders in an initiative to help employers fill existing workforce vacancies, grow new positions, and provide intensive training and work-based learning to help develop the skills of our employees. Other community stakeholders involved with this initiative include Helena Public Schools and East Helena Public Schools, Carroll College, the Career Training Institute, Reach Higher Montana, the Helena Education Foundation, Montana Business Assistance Connection, the Office of Public Instruction, the Office of the Commissioner, the Office of the Governor, the Montana Chamber of Commerce, and the Montana Department of Labor & Industry.
- Helena College recently purchased four "short term demo" blade servers and a chassis at 80% off the list price for upgrades to our current system. This will help us move forward into the future with extra capacity for growth and reliability. The IT Department is also in the process of moving Helena College faculty and staff from UM's Microsoft Exchange system and onto Microsoft Office 365. This will be completed in early fall 2018. This move will greatly enhance collaboration between Helena College Students (who are already on O365), Faculty, and Staff.
- On June 1-2, Helena College offered a 16-hour Hybrid Technology Training for high school automotive teachers, funded through the Montana Career Pathways Grant. Teachers earned OPI Renewal Units and were reimbursed for travel costs and substitute teacher pay. The course included lectures on topics such as high voltage safety and hybrid vehicle configurations, classifications, components, and operations; and work in the lab performing power-down sequences, performance checks, and testing other important hybrid functions. Although participants from three high schools do not have hybrid vehicles in their shops, they will be able to share concepts with their students.