

The University of Montana Western Campus Report

DATE: Wednesday, December 19, 2018
TO: Board of Regents
FROM: Beth Weatherby, Chancellor
RE: Campus Report for the January 2019 Board of Regents' Meeting

- **Montana Western Foundation Launches New Scholarship Application Portal**

The Montana Western Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the launch of a new scholarship application portal for all current and prospective students at the University of Montana Western.

The application process is used to award a variety of scholarships, including the Chancellor's Leadership Scholarship and those supported by the UMW Foundation.

The priority deadline for applications to be received is January 15, 2019. Prospective students can continue to apply after the priority deadline, however, the committee will begin awarding scholarships in mid-January. Over \$350,000 in scholarship support was provided through the Foundation this past year.

- **Montana Western and TRIO Celebrate First-Generation College Student Day**

On Nov. 8, 2018, Montana Western joined in the celebration around the country of the second annual First-Generation College Student Celebration.

The date marks the 53rd anniversary of the Higher Education Act of 1965 which increased funding for universities, scholarships and student loans.

"First-generation" refers to students whose parents haven't obtained a four-year college degree; the TRIO program at Montana Western provides them with a support system to help them navigate the landscape of higher education.

- **Students Attend NASPA Conference in Florida**

Montana Western students Ava Nelson and Shayla McGregor, along with Peers Advancing Towards Health (PATH) advisor Lexi Benson, joined nearly 500 individuals in attendance at this year's NASPA conference that was held Nov. 1-4 in Kissimmee, Florida. Over 100 universities from around the nation were represented.

NASPA, National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, is the leading association for the advancement, health, and sustainability of the student affairs profession.

Nelson, McGregor, and Benson were inspired by attending the conference and plan to incorporate new wellness program elements at Montana Western based on the session topics of the conference.

- **Glass Artist Sally Prasch Visits Montana Western**

Sally Prasch, a visiting scientific and artistic glass blower from Montague, Massachusetts, presented a public artist's lecture on Nov. 8 in the Mary Baker Emerick Art Annex Lecture Room at Montana Western. She also worked with UMW students in their glass courses that same week.

Prasch got her start in the art of glassblowing at age 13 working as a part-time apprentice at the University of Nebraska.

She received her BFA in Furnace Glassblowing and Ceramics from the University of Kansas, later starting her own glassblowing business. She followed her lecture with a live demonstration for all attendees.

The University of Montana Western offers degrees and certificates in artistic and scientific glass, and is the only four-year institution in the U.S. to offer a specialization in scientific glassblowing.

- **UMW Faculty Present across the State During Research Roadshow Series**

Montana Western professors Jack Kirkley, Michelle Anderson and Rob Thomas presented research in October 2018 during the Montana Research Roadshow which was organized by the Montana University System's Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education. It featured the innovative research being conducted at Montana's public universities.

The roadshow tour covered 25 Montana towns. Researchers were distributed among the different regions and presented a ten-minute synopsis of the research they and their students conducted.

Kirkley and Anderson presented their research in Billings, Roundup, Forsyth, Miles City and Broadus, Mont., while Thomas presented his research in Missoula, Polson, Kalispell and Libby.

- **Bulldogs Host First-Ever Home Cross Country Meet**

The University of Montana Western Cross Country team hosted their first-ever home meet on Oct. 19 with both the men's and women's teams finishing in third place.

The meet was held at the old Sleepy Hollow Golf Course and was the most challenging the Bulldogs faced during the season.

Senior Mindy Kaufman was the top NAIA runner finishing third overall with a time of 19:55. Russell Kujala added a top-ten finish to his resume crossing the line in ninth place with a time of 27:55.

- **Children Attend Bag and Box Theatre Holiday Plays**

The University of Montana Western's Fine Arts Department presented "Bag and Box Theatre: Holiday Plays for Children" as part of the Bank of Commerce Performing Arts Series that was held November 8-11 on the University of Montana Western campus.

"With the switch of a box — which can become a car — and a bag, which becomes the pizza delivery man's hat, the Bag and Box concept reminds audiences that anyone can create a fun play and a pretend world with little to nothing," said visiting Director and Montana Western alumna Tawsha Jones.

All children in Dillon and the surrounding communities were invited to attend the performances free of charge.

- **Amy Pearson Shares Poetry at Dances with Words**

Amy Rae Pearson, a writer from Kalispell, Mont. shared her work at the "Dances with Words" series on Nov. 29, 2018 at The Cup, Montana Western's coffeehouse located below the library on campus.

Pearson read from her book "100 Days of Solitude." The poems document her experience as a fire lookout on Jumbo Mountain in the Bob Marshall Wilderness during one of the biggest fire seasons in decades.

Her book describes a spectrum of moments spanning from the natural beauty of the wilderness to alarm regarding proximity to grizzly bears. "Dances with Words" is produced by English Professor Alan Weltzien.

- **Montana Shakespeare in the Schools Present Julius Caesar**

The University of Montana Western hosted a production of William Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* as part of the 2018-19 Bank of Commerce sponsored Performing Arts Series.

The shows were held on December 6, 2018 and were presented by Montana Shakespeare in the Schools (MSIS).

"For our production of *Julius Caesar*, audience participation is critical. The audience acts as citizens of Rome who play an important part in determining the course of the play. We invite the audience to listen carefully, be alert and respond to what is happening when called upon," stated MSIS.