

Date: October 30, 2019

To: Board of Regents

From: Laura J. Vosejka, Ph.D.  
Dean/CEO, Helena College University of Montana

Subject: Campus Report for the November 21-22, 2019 Board of Regents Meeting

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The Associated Students of Helena College are gearing up for Helena College Day at Griz football to be held on November 9<sup>th</sup>. ASHC will be providing the funds for tailgate food for Helena College students. There are currently 10 active clubs on campus including four new clubs: Aviation, Christians United for Israel, Global Languages, and Entertainment & Gaming, which is investigating opportunities to start an e-sports team at Helena College. The ASHC is made up of 20 senators and four officers. Stipends for the officers were recently increased to reflect stipends across the MUS.

The first Helena College STEAM Month has been a huge success. The list of events that have been open to the Helena community included:

- The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Helena College Welding Rodeo – Saturday, October 5, 2019: High school student from 4 different area high schools partnered with Helena College students to create an art sculpture depicting Montana Wildlife. All student competitors were awarded \$500 scholarships to Helena College and an abundance of prizes from local sponsors, including a welder donated by Miller, were also awarded. The winning sculpture, from Capital High School (both students plan on attending Helena College!) is shown below. All four sculptures will be featured at the Holter Art Museum for the Fall 2019 Helena Art Walk on November 8<sup>th</sup>.



- Four different “Thursdays at Helena College” were offered during October: The Art and Science of Ceramics (Brooke Hartman), What is Killing the Bees? (Prof. Michelle Flenniker – MSU), Helena Women in STEM: A Panel Discussion (featuring 4 Helena STeM professionals), and The Art and Science of Distillation (John McKee – Headframe Spirits). We had outstanding attendance at all events, with Prof. Flenniker’s talk at standing room only!
- A class on the chemistry of amaro flavors hosted by Helena College at Gulch Distillers.
- A book discussion centered on Hope Jahren’s *Lab Girl* in conjunction with Lewis & Clark Public Library and the NEA Big Read. Additionally, our own Virginia Reeves hosted a writer’s workshop in conjunction with the NEA Big Read.
- An art competition on the Future of Technology open to all Helena area k-12 students. The winners will be chosen prior to the Helena Fall Art Walk and displayed at the Holter Museum.

Helena College received 146 applications during College Application Week, up nearly 20% from last year.

Helena College welcomed Mike Jetty for a ceremony to bless an installation of tribal flags representing Montana’s eight tribal nations. These flags are on permanent display in the Helena College Student Center.



Helena College's new IT director, Mike Hausler, has come onboard and is a full member of the UM IT team. Mike is shaping up the function in a variety of ways, not limited to cleaning up storage areas, rebuilding backup servers, analyzing distance learning upgrades – we are offering our Fire and Rescue Program as a streaming experience now – and planning for the inevitable replacement of the Domain Controllers. Additionally we will be implementing Regroup as our emergency communications system. The list of IT action items that have been completed or are in progress is substantial.

The Helena College Computer Aided Manufacturing Program was awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Gene Haas Foundation to support scholarships for both credit and non-credit (certificate) training. The GHF has the primary goal of building skills in the machining industry by providing scholarships and NIMS credentials for CNC machine technology students.

The first cohort of students from the newly redesigned Automotive Technology program will be matched to their apprenticeship hosts this coming Thursday. The 13 first year students - five men and three women - in the program will receive their apprenticeship bid in a ceremony to be held at the Helena College Airport Campus.

Advisory boards have met for the following programs: Diesel Technology (10/24), Automotive Technology (10/16), Computer Technology, Roundtable with Advisory to follow (10/28), and Aviation Maintenance (10/30).

Helena College has hosted a number of events since our last report was submitted, including but not limited to: iGraduate Summit (8/15), the delivery of Governor Bullock's Labor Day Report (9/3), the Montana ETS Student Leadership Kickoff Conference (10/17-18), Perkins V Training for OPI (10/29), and, maybe the most fun, the Bryant School Halloween Trick-or-Treat party for nearly 300 elementary school students (10/31, of course).

Helena College partnered with Helena WINS to offer Manufacturing Day for Helena area fifth grade students. Volunteers from a variety of community sectors traveled to fifth grade classrooms to help students build a robotic arm and discuss the importance of manufacturing. The Helena College Continuing Education programs offered 30 courses (including 6 new courses), serving nearly 350 students.