

From: Deputy Commissioner Brock Tessman

To: Board of Regents

Please see below for an executive overview of the Level II items that are being proposed for your review and action at the June meeting of the Board of Regents. These items have been submitted by the campuses and reviewed by the Chief Academic Officers of the Montana University System and community colleges. OCHE staff has reviewed the items and provided a short analysis below relying on information submitted by the campuses. For more information and specific details on each item, please see the supporting documentation included on the Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Committee agenda.

University of Montana - Missoula

B.S. in Public Health

The University of Montana – Missoula requests permission to offer a B.S. in Public Health with options in i) General Public Health, ii) Community Health, iii) Population Health, and iv) Global Health. This new program will absorb the existing Public and Community Health option within the B.S. in Health and Human Performance.

The B.S. in Public Health would help to meet substantial and growing demand for health educators and community health workers in Montana. Current Bureau of Labor Statistics forecasts suggest demand for community health workers in Montana will grow by 16% annually, far faster than occupations at large. If approved, the B.S. in Public Health would be the first Council of Education for Public Health (CEPH) accredited undergraduate public health program in Montana.

Graduates will be prepared to work in fields related to epidemiology, biostatistics, policy development, environmental health, and public health law and ethics. Students within the Community Health concentration will be prepared to work in a variety of settings, including non-profit health organizations, public health departments, worksite wellness programs, college and university human resource and wellness programs, and community-based health agencies. Students within the Population Health concentration will be trained in public health principles but with a healthcare focus, with training towards jobs in primary health care sites such as hospitals, health clinics and health maintenance organizations following graduation. Global Health concentration students will be provided with the tools needed to work internationally, specifically in public health issues related to developing countries.

To support this program, UM anticipates adding four new faculty FTE (two tenure track and two non-tenure track) between launch and fiscal year 2022, phased as the program grows to a full capacity of around 200 majors. UM is also proposing a program fee of \$25 per credit.

OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve