



**Date:** February 5, 2020

**To:** Board of Regents

**From:** Laura Vosejpkka.  
Dean/CEO, Helena College University of Montana

**Subject:** Campus Report for March 5-6, 2020, Board of Regents Meeting

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The eLearning Office has also been working to expand our “e-campus” to better fit the needs of our online/hybrid students. To this end we have offered training workshops on the advanced use of Moodle and WebEx conferencing to both faculty and staff and have upgraded our Moodle production site by integrating more tools. Very soon, we will set up a committee for upgrading our classroom media so the students who live remotely can easily access to our face-to-face lectures or in-class activities using technologies.

Helena College is reporting a 300% increase in the number of high school students (44) registered for classes that are offered at Helena College (on-campus or online). On January 21 & 22 we hosted 320 8<sup>th</sup> grade students from CR Anderson Middle School on our Airport Campus, a visit designed to expose these students to career pathways involving skilled trades immediately prior to high school course registration. Representatives from Helena College visited Helena High and Capital High on January 29 & 30 to register students for spring dual credit classes.

Helena College, along with Helena WINS and the Helena Chamber of Commerce, hosted Manufacturing Night on Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup> on the Helena College Airport Campus. This event, designed to introduce 8-12<sup>th</sup> grade students and their families about careers in the manufacturing industry, had a standing room only crowd, which included 50 students. Guests had the opportunity to hear from industry professionals, including Helena College alumni; participate in hands-on learning projects in welding and machining; and learn how these career pathways can be realized at Helena College.

In March, Helena College celebrates Career and Technical Education by hosting programs and workshops to support career readiness for our current students and showcase our CTE programs to prospective students. The month will culminate in a Career Fair and Skilled Trades Fair.

The December nursing RN graduates currently report a 100% NCLEX pass rate. Two members of the nursing faculty are participating in a Board of Nursing task force around the need for more LPN's in our state, particularly at rural critical access hospitals.

Our new Helena College Library Learning Hub was created at the beginning of fall 2019 by combining library services, tutoring and academic coaching. Librarians and the academic coach are interacting with tutors in all subject areas to enable learning in research, writing, math, science and business. Our Starfish kiosk for student sign-in was introduced at the beginning of spring 2020. This will enable us to

glean data for assessment and improvement of services while sharing learning outcomes between tutors and faculty to increase student success in the classroom.

HC Human Resource Department is offering four SkillPath® Professional Development webinars throughout the month of February. The titles include *How to Effectively Handle Customer Complaints*, *Assertiveness Skills for Front Desk Professionals*, *Defeating Negativity in the Workplace*, and *How to Manage Priorities and Time*.

Blood Drive at HC: There were 23 donors registered and 20 units collected on the goal of 17. The collected units were separated into individual lifesaving products (red cells, platelets and plasma). This process will finish Saturday morning providing 60 gifts of life ready for distribution to Montana Hospital Patients.

Helena College saw a 20% increase in applications during College Application Week. Recruitment is working with Marketing to provide additional information to these potential students about the benefits of two-year education.

The TRIO SSS Proposal was submitted to the Department of Education on Friday, January 24. We expect notification by July 2020 about whether or not we will be awarded the \$1.265 million requested in July. The primary goal of a Student Support Services program is “to increase the number of disadvantaged, low-income, and first-generation college students and students with disabilities who successfully complete a program of study at the postsecondary level.” Currently, Helena College enrolls 684 students who meet one or more of these eligibility criteria.

Helena College is currently hiring for the following staff positions: CFO-Assistant Dean of Administrative Affairs, Director of Facilities and Maintenance, Controller, Financial Aid Specialist, Director of Student Success and Retention Initiatives, and the following faculty positions: Anatomy and Physiology, CNA and Business.

The college has partnered with Slate Architecture for the renovation of the Student Centers on both the Donaldson and the Airport Campus. Slate will conduct a series of charettes in the immediate weeks with a proposed start date for the remodel in mid-May.

The Helena College Financial Aid office has partnered with Ascendum to reduce our loan default rates.

Helena College launched an event series in partnership with the Lewis & Clark County Library. The series kick off in January with veteran Montana journalist and author Mike Dennison who spoke about his new book, *Inside Montana Politics: A Reporter’s View from the Trenches*.

Local Artist Amy Brakeman Livezey is currently displaying new work at Helena College. Her showcase kicked off with an opening night talk and meet and greet with the artist.