

Date: April 22, 2020

To: Board of Regents

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

Subject: Campus Report for May 20-21, 2020, Board of Regents Meeting

Thirty-six students and their parents attended **Transportation Night** on the Helena College Airport Campus on March 10, 2020. This event featured transportation career pathways, with a particular emphasis on transportation programs offered at Helena College: aviation maintenance, auto mechanics, and diesel technology. Students and parents listened to a panel of employers and students discuss industry growth and trends as well as pathways for employment. The employers represented Lithia of Helena, Mergenthaler Transfer, and Vetter Aviation. Students had the opportunity to participate in hands-on activities and parents learned about career exploration tools such as Montana Career Information Systems and the Montana Career Pathways website.

The nursing students along with the Psychology club sponsored "**Fresh Check Day**", a signature program of the Jordan Porco Foundation that planned and funded a 12 booth, fair-like event to bring awareness of mental health resources, including Suicide Prevention and coping strategies, to college students. Data was obtained by way of a survey and approximately 75 people were in attendance.

Helena College partnered with the Holter Museum of Art for **SHIFT**, a collection of juried art works by Helena College students, faculty and staff that evoke ideas about movement, change, and temporality. SHIFT is on virtual display at the Holter Museum of Art and can be seen at <https://youtu.be/RMwc6BQ14M4>. The Showcase was originally scheduled for viewing at the Holter Museum from March 6 to April 17, 2020. The Opening Gala took place on Friday, March 13, 2020.

The **eLearning Office** has created a "[Teaching Remotely Guide](#)" to provide resources and support for instructors as Helena College switched all classes to the online format. In addition, the eLearning Office also offered online training for [Moodle](#), [WebEx](#), [Screencast-O-Matic](#) and [Microsoft Teams](#) for all instructors. On the Moodle homepage, various "[Keep Learning](#)" resources are listed for students to support their transition. Amy Kong is currently piloting an online proctoring software, [Respondus](#) to help Helena College faculty maintain academic integrity of online assessment.

March was **Career and Technical Education Month** at Helena College. A variety of programs and events highlighted and supported Career and Technical Education pathways on the Helena College campuses, while simultaneously engaging current Helena College students with workforce readiness programming and tools for successful career planning. Programming consisted of 13 different events. While some events were delayed due to COVID-19, multiple career workshops were held, a professional clothing closet was opened, and the career fairs were moved to an online platform to continue to engagement between students and future employers.

The Helena College **Information Technology** (IT) department has two main projects that will initiate the infrastructure melding with University of Montana: we are working to transition from our old and unsupported storage area network (SAN) to new storage shelves that will be located in the University of Montana raised floor server room and we are initiating phase one of replacing our current phone system and installing a new Cisco Business Edition 6000M server appliance. This will upgrade our VoIP phone system network to a fully supported

version, allowing us to begin replacing as many phones as we are fiscally able to in FY20. Phase two of this project will wrap up the remaining phone purchases, tentatively set for FY22.

General Education and Transfer Division Chair, Robyn Kiesling, and Math Instructor, Joyce Walborn, are participating in the **Complete College America** (CCA) assessment of co-requisite implementation. Helena College currently offers co-requisite support for all gateway math and writing courses essentially eliminating the need for remediation. Through co-requisite support, students at Helena College have the opportunity to complete their math and writing degree requirements in the first semester.

The **Financial Aid Office** has been working with a variety of entities (DOE, NASFAA, regional and state FA Directors, OCHE) in order to formulate a process for emergency aid to be available for students with COVID related expenses and shortfalls. Amongst all the changes, regulations and guidance, the office has successfully maintained operations remotely, assisting students in a timely and efficient manner. There has been a COVID19 Q&A webpage specific to financial aid added to the website and a short video has been created discussing the emergency funds and other financial literacy tips. Default prevention services have been initiated with Ascendium, and work has been started with Montana Interactive AccessGov to enable the submission of forms/documents online. 2020-2021 Financial Aid Offers have been created and sent to all students who have submitted a FAFSA to date.

Maintenance & Facilities have been able to complete several 'extra' projects during this remote learning time: cleaning and disinfecting the facilities, stripping and waxing floors, cleaning all carpets and other repair projects. As the College is open to the public, they have been making sure we keep all areas accessed sanitized. The roofing project is now in full swing and expected to be completed within the next 6 – 8 weeks. The new chiller will be fully installed by April 24, 2020, weather permitting.

Scott Cromwell and Faith Wadsworth of **Slate Architecture** submitted plans for the updating of the Student Centers on both campuses, which is an initiative that was started over a year ago. They hope is to have these updates completed prior to the start of the fall term.