

## Level II Action Items

November 2020

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 November 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.

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### **Montana State University – Billings**

#### **Re-title Department of Communication and Theatre to the Department of Communication**

The department no longer offers a theatre major or program. The title change is meant to better reflect the programming currently offered through the department. The proposed title change has received unanimous support from department faculty.

*OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve*

### **Montana State University – Bozeman**

#### **Establish the Center for Science, Technology, Ethics and Society (STES)**

The Center for Science, Technology, Ethics and Society (STES) will be an interdisciplinary research center that 1) facilitates interdisciplinary research collaborations among faculty and students on the ethical and social implications of science, technology, and medicine; 2) improve improves resources for ethics education in STEM disciplines and 3) enhances engagement between researchers and the public.

The center's operations will initially be supported through a grant from MSU's Office of the Vice President for Research, Economic Development, and Graduate Education. Long term, the center will be required to support its operations through foundation donations and external grants. Currently available funds will support a part-time director, a graduate and an undergraduate student assistant to aid in coordinating center events, and a part time administrative associate.

*OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve*

## **University of Montana – Missoula**

### **Establish and name the L.S. Skaggs Institute for Health Innovation**

The proposed L.S. Skaggs Institute for Health Innovation would serve as a statewide hub for education, research, and telehealth and precision medicine services. Operating out of the Skaggs School of Pharmacy, the institute would host 1) an interprofessional telehealth effort to provide team-based care to communities across the state, 2) a testing and consultation site for precision medicine innovations, including pharmacogenetics, and 3) a base for expanding the University of Montana's ImProving Health Among Rural Montanans (IPHARM) program, which connects patients with poor healthcare access to services from UM pharmacy students and faculty.

The institute will be housed in an addition to the Skaggs building on the UM campus, which has been made possible through an \$8M philanthropic commitment. UM has committed to securing a further \$2M in philanthropic support for the building and center operations. Establishing the center will require significant financial commitment, including hiring full- and part-time staff (e.g. program manager, IT personnel, and bioinformaticist) and additional faculty and staff as the center grows.

In accordance with BOR Policy 1004.1 "Naming of Buildings", the University of Montana provided both a virtual meeting and a survey public opportunity for comment. No comments were received on the proposed name.

*OCHE Staff Recommendation: Approve*