

Date: December 2020

To: Board of Regents

From: Sandra J. Bauman, Ed.D.
Acting Dean/CEO, Helena College University of Montana

Subject: Campus Report for January 2021 Board of Regents Meeting

Dean's Office

- Helena College received the National Endowment of the Humanities, NEH grant for its summer bridge program: *A Bridge to Humanities Pathways in College: Using Film Production to Explore Local Culture and History*.
- Brief description of the program as told by one of our partners, the Montana Historical Society:

Helena College's bridge program proposes to introduce high school and at-risk college students to historic topics that have a significant impact on issues of importance in modern Montana. The topic of healthcare, people of color, and mining waste are of particular significance in Montana history. Montana was disproportionately affected by the 1918 influenza pandemic, with the third highest mortality rate in the nation. Although people of color have not been a large percentage of Montana's population, they have played a significant part in Montana's history from the Buffalo Soldiers to musician Taylor Gordon. Mining has had a significant economic and environmental impact on our State from the first gold strike to present day. Helena College's project will immerse a new generation of college students in the study of our history and its impacts on our world today.

eLearning and Faculty Development

- The feedback collected from student surveys conducted by faculty in the fall will be used to develop quality instruction in the spring.
- The Professional Advancement Committee of Faculty Senate collected feedback and comments from the new faculty members and their mentors about the new faculty orientation and the monthly meetings throughout the fall semester. The collected feedback will be very useful when planning the new faculty events for next academic year.
- Helena College faculty have the opportunity to test drive a demo SMART document camera and SMART board as Helena College continues to improve classroom technology.
- Quality Matters Training, ACE Engage, LinkedIn Learning Faculty and other professional developments platforms are available over the winter break to the HC faculty.

K-12 Partnerships

- Nine dual credit welding students participated in a fork-lift training on the Helena College Airport Campus with instructor Cody Torres. These students will earn credit for WLDG 107 in high school.
- Work has begun on a Moodle course for all Helena College concurrent enrollment teachers which will be available fall 2021. The course will cover topics such as course alignment, best practices for dual credit teaching, and strategies for teaching online.

Financial Aid

- FAFSA's for the 2021-2022 AY are up 6% as compared to this time last year for the 2020-2021 AY.
- Awarded just over \$309,000 in Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF) to date. Still have just under \$34,000 remaining.
- Forms are being created in AccessGov to assist students with the online completion and submission of necessary documents in order to improve remote service.

Continuing Ed

- Continuing Education offered 70 enrichment and certification courses which served 665 students this fall. The number of students enrolled in in online professional certificate programs increased by 30% in 2020.

General Education

- As part of our Guided Pathways initiative, Helena College has begun mapping out all of our programs to provide each of our students with a clear path to success in their area of study.
- Business & Accounting programs were moved to an enhanced online experience to allow better access for working adults to these degrees.

Recruitment

- Helena College launched the "Become an Alum" program in Helena, in partnership with the Department of Labor & Industry and Helena Job Services, to help adults in the community who have some college credits, go back to school and earn their degree or certificate.

Trades

- Helena College received \$10,000 from the Gene Haas Foundation to be used for student scholarships. This is the second year in a row Helena College has received the award.
- The Student Center on the Airport Campus is being remodeled by Golden Eagle Construction and is on track to be completed for students this coming spring semester.

Nursing Department

- Sixteen RN students and seven LPN students celebrated their nursing program completion with a socially distanced Nurse Pinning Ceremony on Nov 25, 2020.
- Nursing faculty/adjunct faculty held an end of semester review meeting to discuss the successes and challenges of our second COVID-19 semester including ideas for remote teaching and discussed ways to embed virtual resources in our nursing courses.
- Plans are underway to convert a vacant classroom into an additional nursing classroom/ skills and simulation lab.

TRIO SSS

- The HC TRIO Student Support Services program successfully submitted their Annual Performance Report to the Department of Education. Our program met enrollment requirements of serving 140 students and met all objectives in the areas of fall 2019 to fall 2020 student persistence, good academic standing, graduation, and graduation and transfer.
- TRIO, Wellness and Counseling, and the HC Community have worked together to provide free non-perishable holiday meal kits for students during November and December.
- Wellness and Counseling is implementing the Healthy Colleges of Montana and Culture of Respect grants through NASPA. One of the initiatives this fall was the development of a certified peer educator program.