

Date: October 20, 2021

To: Board of Regents

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

Subject: Campus Report for November 2021 Board of Regents Meeting

Career Technical Education

The Machine Tool Technology, Fire & Emergency Services, and Automotive Technology programs met with their advisory boards in October. Each advisory board is made up of community partners. The collaboration helps each program educate and train tomorrow's employees.

Community Education Center (CEC)

GEER Grant Updates:

The GEER Grant Third Party CDL Testing is now up and running and has served its first community members through Commercial License Testing. The Community Education Center is the first third-party examination facility in the state offering examinations to the public. The examination site offers the opportunity to use and rent a tractor-trailer as part of this service, the first of its kind. The scheduling for the examinations can be found on the [Helena College Community Education Center Website](#). The opportunity has been a great partnership between the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education's office, the Montana Department of Justice, the Montana Motor Vehicle Division, the Montana Motor Vehicle Division Licensing Bureau, The University of Montana IT Department, Helena College Maintenance Department, the Helena College IT Department, and the Montana Department of Transportation.

The GEER Grant Automotive Hybrid Vehicle Technology Summit Course will be offered by CEC in January of 2022 in partnership with the Helena College Trades Division and the Automotive Technology Program.

The Helena College Community Education Center Programs:

- The Pharmacy Technician Program is currently running successfully with a full class.
- A Clinical Massage Therapy program will start in November of 2021! CEC is excited to announce that the curriculum has been developed to meet state board requirements as well as national accreditations.
- CEC is currently working on a Water Well Drilling Certification Program with industry partners to enable students to enter into a water well deckhand apprenticeship that will provide them the opportunity to become a state-licensed water well operator.
- CEC will offer an EMT program starting in January of 2022 in a joint effort with the Helena College Trades Division and the Fire and Emergency Services program.
- A Banking Certification Course will be offered in December of 2021 in partnership with the Helena College General Education and Transfer Division Business Department.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion

The Diversity and Inclusion Committee is programming a speaker series for both the Helena College community and the wider public. The series is entitled “Our Montana Life: Diverse Viewpoints & Current Topics”. The series covers a wide range of topics including trans visibility, environmental racism, white nationalism, and women in Montana history.

The Institutional Diversity Officer is currently working closely with Human Resources to build best practices around diverse recruiting and hiring.

eLearning and Faculty Development

Our **new faculty onboarding program** was very well-received by the new faculty members (full-time and adjunct). Amy Kong, Director of eLearning, continues to meet with the new faculty monthly to ensure that their first semester can go as smoothly as possible. Topics for the monthly meetings include but are not limited to:

- Campus and eLearning Support Resources
- OPI teaching licenses and teaching high school students for dual credits
- “Course Learning Outcomes and Assessment” program
- Express any concerns or ask any questions

Compared with other colleges of similar size across the nation, **Turnitin** has been used frequently by the Helena College instructors. The Turnitin representative was very impressed by the quantity and the quality of the feedback our instructors provided to our students using the Turnitin Feedback Studio.

The **Screencast-O-Matic** (SOM) screen-recording software continues to be popular with our instructors. Over 1,200 instructional videos have been created for our students using SOM since July 2019.

Enrollment

The incoming class for the fall 2021 semester was up 26% from the fall of 2020.

Helena College attended a BANNER Analysis with the University of Montana to review BANNER processes for efficiency. It was very useful and we will receive a report from Ellucian on how we can increase our efficiency.

K-12 Dual Enrollment

Our fall early college enrollment is more than double the enrollment from last fall 2020. Our fall dual credit numbers are also up.

Helena College dual enrollment advisors are back in the high schools working with students. This year, we have a presence two days each week at East Helena High School. We have completed seven additional virtual and in-person classroom visits this fall.

Our first **Career Exploration** event on October 6, 2021, in partnership with Helena WINS, featured Healthcare. Thirty-five high school students attended an all-day event that involved employer and

educational partners, hands-on activities, and a resource fair. The employer partners included Benefis, AWARE, Epaga Home Care, Pacific Source Health Plans, PEAK Physical Therapy, and PureView. The educational partners included Carroll College, Great Falls College, Missoula College, and Montana Tech.

Nursing Department

In response to the current nursing shortage, the nursing department has submitted a substantive change with the Montana Board of Nursing (BON) requesting an increase of our cohort size from 16 to 20 per semester beginning with the spring 2022 semester. The increase could result in as many as 40 RN graduates a year. The request will be presented at the next BON meeting on October 20, 2021.

Additionally, our LPN program will add up to 8 Helena College LPN students in the Hamilton, Montana area in the spring. Didactic classes will be taught by Helena College faculty remotely via TEAMS, with “in-person” labs at Bitterroot College and clinicals at local healthcare facilities.

MT 10

This month’s lecture series includes two lectures:

- *Financial Wellness* by Kyra Merchen, Scholarship and Work-Study Officer
- *Intellectual Wellness* by Virginia Reeves, Communication Instructor

Our certified peer educator for MT 10, Jocelyn Norman, is offering a virtual session as well for those students who cannot attend the face-to-face lecture series.

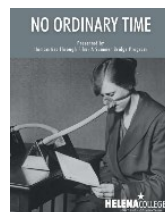
TRIO SSS

Helena College’s TRIO SSS program recently received the Department of Education’s approval for its 2021-2022 budget. It included the inclusion of a new position, TRIO Transition Specialist. This position will support students in making the transition to college life. This individual will have a baseline knowledge of advising, academic programs, and disability services but particularly assist students in navigating Helena College’s online platforms. They will use a scaffolding approach to meet students where they are and help them move toward becoming successful scholars.

NEH Grant:

During the summer of 2021, *No Ordinary Time* was created by a group of high school students taking part in Helena College's Humanities through Film: A Summer Bridge Program. Working with local historians, filmmakers, professors, and health officials, students produced this film in just two weeks.

No Ordinary Time focuses on the overlooked impact of the Spanish Flu pandemic on Montana, one of the hardest-hit states with the country’s third-highest mortality rate, through the lens of high school students now experiencing the COVID-19 pandemic. The documentary film premiered at The Myrna Loy in Helena on Tuesday, October 12, 2021.



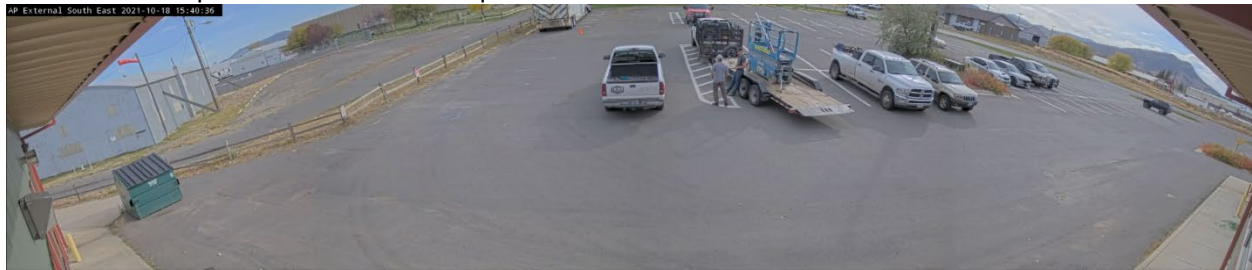
Campus Safety

The Helena College Safety Committee has begun work to further expand campus safety and security measures by installing exterior cameras at both of our campus locations. Our students, faculty, and staff, as well as our physical assets, will be the focus of our eventual exterior building and parking lot cameras. Currently, we have an outside main entrance camera as well as two of the three total airport campus cameras installed.

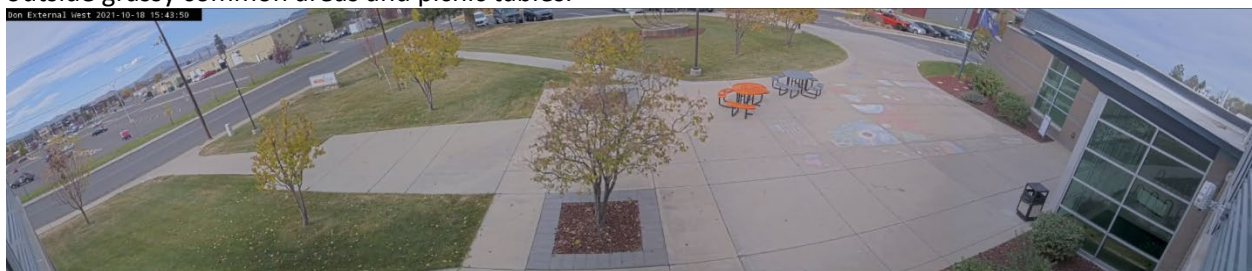
Airport North – is designed to capture our north side parking and storage lot, driveway, and west access gate.



Airport Southeast – covers our southeast parking area and foot traffic flow coming in and out of the annex side of the building. This camera will work in conjunction with our internal annex hallway cameras to complete the foot traffic sequences in and around these areas.



Donaldson Main Entrance – Currently this is the only outside camera at our Donaldson location. This camera covers our main entrance and outward to the north parking area. This will eventually flow with a yet to be determined north parking lot camera to complete the sequence. This also covers our north outside grassy common areas and picnic tables.



The Safety Committee will continue making both interior and exterior camera placement recommendations. We are looking into wireless camera technologies for our light poles in the parking lots. We are also looking at solutions for a site-to-site connection out to our far eastern parking lot off of Harris Street.