



The University of Montana Western Campus Report

DATE: Wednesday, August 18, 2021

TO: Board of Regents

FROM: Michael Reid, Chancellor

RE: Campus Report for the September 2021 Board of Regents' Meeting

- **Montana Western Team Places First at Road to the Horse Collegiate Colt Starting Challenge**

Top collegiate horsemanship teams competed in the Days of '47 Rodeo and Road to the Horse Collegiate Colt Starting Challenge held on July 23 and 24 at the Salt Lake County Equestrian Park & Event Center in South Jordan, Utah.

The University of Montana Western, comprised of team members Katie Ross, James Ramirez and Jacob Christenson and coached by Eric Hoffmann, the Director of Horsemanship and Head Horsemanship Instructor at the Montana Center for Horsemanship and the University of Montana Western, claimed the top spot, earning \$15,000 in scholarship money.

- **National Conference: Of Horse, Human and Nature Presented by MCH and UMW**

The Montana Center for Horsemanship, in partnership with the University of Montana Western, is hosting the first national Natural Horsemanship conference, Of Horse, Human and Nature, September 9-11, 2021. The conference will also feature the Equus International Film Festival.

This public event is focused on Natural Horsemanship education in the 21st century and will bring to the Dillon community, the state, and the region, leading presenters and experts in the equine arena – including Dr. Temple Grandin, world-renowned animal behavior scientist and consultant for the livestock and ranching industries.

- **UMW Names Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs**

Earlier this summer, the University of Montana Western named Dr. Ashley Carlson, Professor of English and Division Chair for the Division of Humanities and Social Sciences at UMW, as Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs.

Dr. Carlson has a Ph.D. in English Literature from the University of New Mexico and has published work on nineteenth-century literature, women's studies, and popular culture. In 2019-20 she taught and conducted research in Madagascar as a U.S. Fulbright Scholar. She has also served on Faculty Senate and as Vice President of the Faculty Union at UMW.

- **Montana Western Ranked Among Best Affordable Early Childhood Education Programs**

The University of Montana Western was recently ranked as one of the "Best Affordable Early Childhood Education Programs" in the nation by Universityhq.org. University Headquarters is an industry-leading, independent educational organization that offers an all-in-one source for information on colleges, entrance requirements and career paths.

Montana Western ranked 56th on the national list and was the only Montana university to be featured. UMW offers an in-state tuition rate of \$5,747 and an out-of-state tuition rate of \$17,209, with tuition discount opportunities for Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) students.

- **Fund for Experience One Makes Motion Capture Research Possible for UMW Students**

The UMW Foundation awarded the Department of Health and Human Performance financial support from the Fund for Experience One to purchase Innovision's Motion Capture Package for use in kinesiology courses at UMW. This technology allows for a high level of accuracy in identifying, preventing, and treating movement and sports-related injuries.

"Without the Foundation's support, students would not have had the opportunity to learn about and employ these technologies themselves; with its support, students now graduate from the degree programs with practical experience that benefits them in both successive graduate programs and in their career positions," said UMW Assistant Professor Dr. Mitchell Stephenson.

- **Montana Western Names Janelle Handlos as Interim Athletic Director**

Dr. Janelle Handlos has been named Interim Director of Athletics at UMW. Handlos, an Associate Professor of Health and Human Performance, assumed her new role on July 5, 2021.

“I look forward to continuing to support the success of our student-athletes and coaches over the coming year,” said Handlos. “Montana Western means so much to me and my family, and I’m excited to soon kick-off the fall season and welcome the community to our many upcoming Bulldog games and events.”

An alumna of Montana Western, Handlos also served as Interim Athletic Director during the 2012-13 academic year.

- **Casey Parrott Named Frontier Conference SID of the Year**

Frontier Conference Commissioner Kent Paulson recently announced the 2020-2021 Conference End of the Year awards and nominees for NAIA awards. Montana Western's Casey Parrott was selected as the Frontier Conference's Sports Information Director (SID) of the Year. Parrott has been the SID for Montana Western for five seasons and has received conference honors for three consecutive years.

Parrott designs and produces game programs at UMW and his women’s basketball game notes placed 10th in the nation in the 2020-21 NAIA-SIDA publications contest. He has had five other top-ten finishes in the publications contest over the last three years.

- **UMW Student Awarded Sigma Tau Delta Scholarship**

Emily Engen, a UMW senior and English major, recently received a Sigma Tau Delta scholarship for the upcoming fall semester. The \$1,000 "Regents: High Plains" scholarship was awarded to Engen based on her excellence in academics.

Engen is excited and thankful for this scholarship and says that it will go towards tuition costs for the fall semester.

“This scholarship will make such a difference! I am close to completing my degree at Montana Western, and this scholarship will help me move closer to my goal of graduating from college debt-free,” Engen said.

- **Montana Western Regents Professor Nominated for High Plains Book Award**

Dr. Robert Thomas is a Regents Professor of Geology in the Environmental Sciences Department at the University of Montana Western and co-author of “Roadside Geology of Montana.” The publication has been nominated for the 2021 High Plains Book Award in the Medicine & Science category.

According to the High Plains website, “the High Plains Book Awards recognize regional authors and/or literary works which examine and reflect life on the High Plains.”

Winners for all book awards will be announced at an Awards Banquet held in conjunction with the High Plains BookFest in September 2021 in Billings, Montana.

- **UMW Names Melvin Ewing as Director of Information Technology Services**

Melvin Ewing has been named as the Director of Information Technology Services at UMW. He earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics with a Computational Option from Montana State University – Billings in 1996. Ewing also served in the Montana Army National Guard from 1993-1999.

For the past year, he has also served as the Project Director for UMW’s Banner 9 transition project in coordination with the University of Montana and as Project Director at Quest Software in Missoula, Mont., since 2006. As part of this role, Ewing manages multiple software development teams with the delivery of over two dozen products focused on data protection and management.