

Date: February 2022

To: Board of Regents

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

Subject: Campus Report for March 2022 Board of Regents Meeting

Career Technical Education

- **Machining Program:** Three upright manual mills and a Haas mini-mill were added to the lab and are working smoothly. Machining is in the process of moving from SolidWorks program to the MasterCam Solids program.
- **Diesel Program:** Vaughn Truck Sales in Havre has donated a 2009 Freightliner Truck, several transmissions, and random parts to the program. The Diesel Program has also started the online Alison Certifications.
- **Aviation Program:** Helena College is adding a new Avionics Program in summer 2022. The Aviation Advisory board members are very excited about this new feature to the program. A Cessna Citation airplane was donated to the Aviation Program through the Foundation.
- **Automotive Program:** AERA (Automotive Engine Rebuilding Association) has been added to the program this spring. The students are currently in the workforce every day; they are spending either their morning or their afternoon in classes and the opposite time in the workforce.
- **Welding Program:** A new gas blending system was installed in the welding lab.
- **Fire & Emergency Services (FES):** FES retained all of its first semester students who are on track for IFSAC/Proboard Fire Fighter 1 Certification by March 10, and 100% of the students are members of volunteer fire departments. The program has acquired and equipped a 2008 Ford F-550 Brush Truck for wildland classes.
- **Cosmetology:** The new Cosmetology program, starting fall 2023, had its first Advisory Board meeting. Helena's business partners are excited for this new opportunity in the Helena community. Helena College is in the process of hiring the director who will start this spring.

Career Connections

- Handshake is an exciting platform that connects Helena College students to employers nationwide. The use of Handshake will allow our students to create professional profiles, access virtual interviews, and career fairs. The interconnected advantages that Handshake provides mean our students have access to opportunities being promoted at various campuses across the country which allows HC student's the chance to compete nationally, regionally, and locally for jobs in their field. We hope that students will utilize Handshake to gain new insights into career opportunities during, and after graduation.

Community Education Center

- An online high-flex *Introduction to Banking Fundamentals* course is starting with an industry partner on March 21, 2022. The training will take students through a three-part course on foundational banking, providing them with credentials to directly enter into the industry at a higher rate of pay than entry level positions.

- The CDL course is beginning February 28, 2022.
- A new *Behavioral Health Technician* program is scheduled to begin in March to allow current employees or students interested in the behavioral health industry to complete an online high-flex course leading directly to employment.
- The Community Education Center is working with the Montana Department of Transportation to create customized training in heavy equipment electrical, both basic and advanced.
- The Community Education Center is also providing face-to-face courses in Phlebotomy, Clinical Medical Assisting, Pharmacy Technician, Licensed Massage Therapy, and Certified Medical Assisting with Billing and Coding (online) as certifications leading directly to careers in the workforce.

eLearning and Faculty Development

- Faculty Development is focusing on a collaboration this semester by encouraging the new faculty members to conduct peer observations with experienced instructors.

K-12 Dual Enrollment

- Helena College dual enrollment staff were at the high schools the first week of February, registering students for spring dual credit classes.
- Manufacturing & Mechanics night was held at the Helena College Airport Campus on February 16. High school students and their parents were invited to meet with Helena College faculty as well as area employers to hear about career opportunities.
- Helena College is partnering with the Area Summer Jobs program to offer a special section of Interpersonal Communication (COMX 115). This summer class is designed specifically for high school students who are working. Reach Higher Montana is funding the tuition for Summer Jobs Program participants.

Nursing Department

- Students are attending clinicals in healthcare facilities, however, nurse staffing shortages and COVID-19 outbreaks have impacted some location's ability to allow students. The need for a dedicated simulation learning lab is vital to ensure the program can augment the clinical experience hours required for graduation.
- The Practical Nursing program in collaboration with Bitterroot College, as part of the GEERs funding, accepted the first Practical Nursing students in January 2022. Adjunct lab instructors teach on site and the didactic courses are taught in virtual blended format, with lecture via TEAMS and exams proctored on campus.
- Helena College Nursing graduates are returning as clinical and lab instructors for the PN program...exciting to see former graduates return to teach.

TRIO SSS

- TRIO SSS staff are offering Certified Peer Educator Training through National Assoc. of Student Personnel Administrators to all interested TRIO and MT 10 students. Students who finish the training are eligible to attend the TRIO State Student Leadership Conference in March.
- TRIO is working to provide short term free counseling for TRIO and MT 10 students.

Student Life:

- Student Life is partnering with Lewis and Clark County Suicide Prevention to bring Question, Persuade, Refer, (QPR) to Helena College. Emily Schuff, Director of Student Life, has completed QPR Train-the-trainer certification and is collaborating with Jess Hegstrom to create a curriculum for Suicide Prevention at Helena College.
- An application was submitted to Montana Campus Compact for Americorps VISTA to build the capacity of the Helena College Campus Pantry into a comprehensive basic needs program.
- Partnering with Florence Crittenton to host a Women's Empowerment event for International Women's Day.

Enrollment Services

- The first fall graduation ceremony was held in December. There was an increase in fall graduate participation rate from 11% to 30%.
- An RFP has been submitted for an enrollment CRM (Customer Relation Management). The committee is currently reviewing proposals and should complete the process by April.