



The University of Montana Western Campus Report

DATE: Wednesday, August 24, 2022

TO: Board of Regents

FROM: Michael Reid, Chancellor

RE: Campus Report for the September 2022 Board of Regents' Meeting

- **UMW Raises \$1M in New Support of Sports & Activities Complex**

The Sports & Activities Complex project at the University of Montana Western recently achieved a major milestone due to recent fundraising gifts totaling \$1 million. These latest donations bring the total to \$3.2M funds raised, initiating the land transfer. The complex will be built on 14 acres of land adjacent to campus that John and Phyllis Erb pledged to the university in 2019. As part of the pledge, the Erbs included a fundraising challenge that provided the momentum to launch the fundraising efforts.

“The Erbs’ pledge was the catalyst for this project,” said Montana Western Chancellor, Michael Reid. “We are so grateful for their generosity and shared vision that creating a facility like this on campus would be transformative for both the university and our community.”

The Erbs’ vision is the establishment of a space that will benefit not only the students at Montana Western, but also the youth in Beaverhead County, in addition to the Montana Youth Challenge Academy cadets.

- **UMW and Montana Center for Horsemanship to Host Natural Horsemanship Conference**

“The Natural Horsemanship Revolution” will be held at the Montana Center for Horsemanship and the University of Montana Western in Dillon, Montana, September 8-10, 2022. Focusing on a global understanding of Natural Horsemanship, this conference will feature a wide range of clinics, presentations, keynotes, award-winning films and leaders in the field with a goal of sharing knowledge to advance the horse-human relationship. The Equine Studies Department at the University of Montana Western offers the nation’s only Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Horsemanship with options in management, psychology, science and instruction.

The MCH teaches the 'La Cense Method,' which was developed under William Kriegel, owner of Haras de la Cense in France and co-founder of MCH. The La Cense Method is a progressive, step-by-step process that blends the best of traditional horsemanship training with the art of training and riding horses—all in a manner that works with a horse's behavior, instincts, and personality. Taking a positive and respectful approach, the La Cense Method gradually builds trust, and frees the horses to be confident in all they are asked to perform.

- **30th Annual Bulldog Bash to be Held this Fall**

The University of Montana Western Foundation, UMW Athletics Department, and the Bulldog Club will host the 30th Annual Bulldog Bash dinner and auction on September 24, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. in the Keltz Arena on the UMW campus.

The day's events start at 11:00 a.m. with a tailgate celebration at Vigilante Field followed by the Montana Western vs. Montana Tech football game. Doors open for the Bulldog Bash at the Keltz Arena after the football game with dinner being served at 5:30 p.m. A "Legacy of Casey Keltz" video tribute, silent auction, and live auction will take place during the Bash.

"It is very fitting Casey Keltz is being honored on the 30th anniversary of the Bulldog Bash as he led the charge in getting the Bash started all those years ago. Casey knew there was a tremendous need for support of Bulldog student-athletes and the Bash was a great way to bring the fans together to generate support and celebrate these students at the same time," said Phil Willett, President/CEO of Pioneer Federal Savings & Loan and MC of the 2022 Bulldog Bash.

- **Montana Western Announces 2022 Bulldog Athletics Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony**

The Montana Western Alumni Association and Athletics Department is proud to announce that five new members will be inducted into the Bulldog Athletics Hall of Fame on October 1, 2022 in the Lewis and Clark room on the UMW campus during a special induction ceremony and brunch. This year, the Hall of Fame welcomes Dr. Janelle Handlos, Tommy Lee, Rob Hankins, Becky Kurtz (O'Neil) and Nick Rewerts.

- **TRIO Accelerator Program Kicks Off New Academic Year**

The UMW TRIO Accelerator program prepares incoming TRIO students for their first week of college and beyond. Over three intensive days, August 16-18, TRIO students settled into their residence halls, found their classrooms, and picked up their textbooks before Orientation began. The participants learn the ins and outs of college including university acronyms; business, financial aid, and registration processes; and best practices for success in their coursework. At the end of the program, the students are ready to be successful and engaged Montana Western Bulldogs on day one.

- **Montana Western Welcomes Students to Orientation and Convocation**

The University of Montana Western held new student Orientation August 18 - 21. Convocation, the official start of the school year ceremony, took place August 19 in the Straugh Gymnasium and featured an inspirational keynote address by Melinda Pfundstein.

Orientation continued throughout the weekend with a series of events designed to familiarize new students with the Montana Western and Dillon community. Events included sessions about the Experience One program, a football scrimmage, community scavenger hunt, movie in the Swysgood Technology Center, and much more.

- **Champions of Character Award**

The University of Montana Western has received the Champions of Character Five-Star Institution Award for 2021-22. Each year, NAIA schools use the Champions of Character scorecard to measure the pursuit of character-driven athletics. Institutions earn points in character training, conduct in competition, academic focus, character recognition and character promotion. Institutions earned points based on exceptional student-athlete grade point averages and by having minimal to no ejections during competition throughout the course of the academic year.

- **UMW Names Dr. Randy Johnson as Director of Student Success**

Before coming to Montana Western, Dr. Johnson served in several leadership positions at Broadview University, including Dean of Faculty, Campus Director, Director of Career Services, and Dean of Education. He also served as a Lead Student Success Advisor at Southern Utah University.

Dr. Johnson earned a B.A. in Child Development and Family Relations and an M.S. in Sociology from Brigham Young University, as well as a Ph.D. in Sociology/Gerontology from the University of Washington. He also completed a post-doctoral fellowship at Case Western University. Dr. Johnson started his duties at the University of Montana Western on July 11, 2022.

- **1970s WMC Alumni Scholarship Awarded to UMW Students**

The University of Montana Western is pleased to announce that Joelnell Momberg and Darcy Walker have been awarded the 1970s Western Montana College (WMC) Alumni Scholarship for 2022-23.

To be awarded this scholarship, students must hold at least a 3.0 GPA and have a relative that attended the University of Montana Western. Each student will be awarded a \$500 scholarship for the 2022-23 academic year. The 1970s WMC Alumni Scholarship has been providing

students with financial support since 2019. After 3.5 years of fundraising and the generosity of the donors, the group has endowed their scholarship with a core membership of 38 donors.

- **Montana Western Hosts Shakespeare in the Park's 50th Season Performance and Theatre Camps for Children**

A special commemorative plaque thanking the Community of Dillon for hosting the tour's performances was presented to Bethanie Wharton this summer on behalf of the UMW School of Outreach, a local sponsor of the Shakespeare in the Park event held each year in the Dillon community since 1986.

Celebrating their 50th season, Montana Shakespeare in the Parks has become a mainstay of Montana summers, catering to the entire state of Montana in addition to regional performances in North Dakota, Idaho, Wyoming, and Washington.

Premier local sponsor, Pioneer Federal Savings & Loan, and additional local sponsors Mclsaac Appraisal, Quality Inn of Dillon, and the UMW Foundation, helped to bring "King Lear" to the stage for the July 25th performance at the University of Montana Western Legacy Plaza and Pioneer Federal Amphitheater.

The School of Outreach also hosted "The Twisted Fairy Tale Theatre Camp" July 11-15 for children ages 7-12 and "The Choose your Adventure Theatre Camp" July 18-22 for ages 12-18. Each camp's experiences culminated in a play performed by the campers in historic Main Hall on the UMW campus.