

September 24, 2026

**ITEM 226-1602-R0926**

**Request for Approval of Revised Mission and Purpose Statements, Values, and Goals – University of Montana Western**

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**THAT**

The Montana Board of Regents grants approval of a revised Mission Statement, Purpose Statement, Values, and Goals for the University of Montana Western.

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**EXPLANATION**

The revised Mission Statement, Purpose Statement, Values, and Goals below were developed by Montana Western's Strategic Planning Co-Chairs and Working Groups starting in spring 2024 through spring 2026. Based on input from the university's faculty, staff, students, and community members, these elements form the foundation of UMW's next Strategic Plan. The revised Mission Statement, Purpose Statement, Values, and Goals have been vetted by the Executive Council, Chancellors' Cabinet, the Faculty Senate, and the Associated Students of the University of Montana Western.

**Montana Western seeks Board of Regent approval to revise its Mission Statement from:**

*As a leader and innovator in experiential education, the University of Montana Western educates undergraduate students through immersive practices in their field of study, strives for continuous improvement, and achieves evidence-supported student learning and achievement outcomes.*

**To the following:**

*The University of Montana Western's distinctive Experience One model engages students in authentic disciplinary practices to promote intellectual growth and transformative skills. By leveraging our block scheduling model, small classes, personal relationships, and our rural setting, we empower students to lead, serve, and thrive throughout Montana and beyond.*

**Montana Western seeks Board of Regent approval to revise its Vision Statement from:**

*The University of Montana Western will be recognized as the leader in innovative experiential education.*

**To the following Purpose Statement:**

*The primary purpose of the University of Montana Western is the development of lifelong learners that serve the public good as teachers, researchers, artists, entrepreneurs, agricultural leaders, healthcare professionals, environmental stewards, and as citizens.*

**Montana Western seeks Board of Regent approval to revise its Values from:**

***Experience***

*Continuously improve undergraduate education and experiential learning.*

***Equitable, Inclusive Student Success***

*Maximize campus-wide support for student success and completion. Ensure student success is equitable and inclusive.*

**Stewardship and Sustainability**

*Foster responsible and sustainable campus efficiency and stewardship of resources.*

**Community Relations and Partnerships**

*Share resources and partner with the community to serve community needs and offer distinctive and relevant programs.*

**Health and Safety**

*Foster safe, healthy practices in all areas of the university.*

**To the following:**

**Interdisciplinary Immersion**

*Through its distinct block scheduling and interdisciplinary approach, UMW fosters integrated, immersive learning experiences within and across disciplines that equip our students with a broad knowledge base and diverse set of skills in preparation for life in a rapidly changing world.*

**Meaningful Relationships**

*UMW promotes a sense of belonging and community through its small class sizes and dedicated faculty and staff who are attentive to individual student needs and aspirations in the context of the greater good. Through tailored support for their intellectual and personal well-being, UMW students are embraced as members of a larger campus community along their academic journey.*

**Personal Fulfillment**

*Through free inquiry, exploration, and critical reasoning within a community of scholars, UMW strives to equip students with the knowledge, freedom, and courage to pursue what it means to live the good life (eudaimonia) and flourish as individuals and as democratic citizens.*

**Academic Excellence**

*Through its distinct Experience One model, which engages students and faculty in actively exploring the knowledge, purposes, and practices in every field of study, UMW delivers academic excellence in teaching and research that immerses students in the real-world experiences of authentic disciplinary practices. Students develop the tangible and enduring skillsets needed for adapting to the constantly evolving intellectual, economic, and social environments of today's world.*

**Critical Reasoning**

*UMW prepares students to critically evaluate ideas and evidence and cultivates an audacity to question in their search for the truth. Their ability to critically reason will not only contribute to innovation in employment but democratic engagement.*

**Transformative Education**

*UMW fosters self-exploration and new ways of thinking that broaden students' perspectives and understanding of the world. Through their academic journey, individual students discover particular ways they can make a distinctive contribution to society and the public good.*

**Montana Western seeks Board of Regent approval to revise its Objectives from:**

1. *Strengthen the Experience One Program*
2. *Enhance Degree-Seeking Student Recruitment, Retention, and Graduation*
3. *Enhance and Diversify Fiscal Resources*
4. *Modernize and Update the University's Infrastructure*

**To the following Goals:**

1. *Prepare Our Students for Academic Success*
2. *Foster Our Students Toward Graduation*
3. *Sustain Our Institution*

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**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment #1: Montana Western Strategic Plan 2026-2033