



MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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December 15, 2020

To the faculty, staff, and students at the University of Montana Western,

There is likely no more important decision for a university, and its home community, than selection of its next leader. This is certainly the case for an institution like the University of Montana Western, which is entering an era of tremendous opportunity.

We are writing to let you know that the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education and the Montana University System Board of Regents are focused on launching a comprehensive national search, committed to finding the next chancellor of the University of Montana Western.

My office has assisted Montana Western in assembling a diverse search advisory committee, with the full list included at the bottom of this message. The composition of the committee includes stakeholders from on and off the UMW campus, including students, staff, faculty, and leaders from the Dillon community. The committee will be chaired by Mr. Tyler Trevor, Deputy Commissioner for Budget and Planning, with assistance from Ms. Amy Unsworth, who serves as the Executive Assistant to the Commissioner and Policy Coordinator.

We may enlist the help of a national search consultant, as needed, to ensure the search advisory committee is prepared and supported in its task of vetting candidates and selecting finalists for public interviews this spring. We anticipate the next chancellor will be selected by the end of the academic year and ready to start by July 1st, 2021.

Our search process will be defined by quality and not speed; yet we recognize that time is of the essence. The first meeting of the Montana Western Search Advisory Committee will take place this week and will focus on logistics and planning. It is essential for members of the university community and the public to participate throughout the search process as they will play an important role in shaping the kinds of qualities and experiences, we prioritize during the search and influence the selection of finalists for the position. A webpage with details on the search process will also be available soon. Throughout this process, we encourage you to send comments and questions to us via email at aunsworth@montana.edu.

The University of Montana Western, with its one of a kind Experience One program, is a unique university, and the entire Montana University System is committed to the selection of a chancellor who is worthy of your great institution.

Sincerely,


Clayton T. Christian
Commissioner of Higher Education

UMW Chancellor Search Advisory Committee

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