



**The University of Montana-Helena**  
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

**DATE:** April 23, 2009  
**TO:** Board of Regents  
**FROM:** Daniel J. Bingham, PhD  
Dean/CEO  
UM-Helena College of Technology  
**RE:** Campus Update Report for the May 2009 Board of Regents' Meeting

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- Provided 5 seminars for first year instructors on a variety of topics including classroom management, curriculum development, working with the community and assessing student learning.
  - Nursing staff received 2 day training on Sim-Man for clinical simulation
  - Created first on-line Certificate program—Computer Specialist
  - Recognition of excellence in teaching for two UMH faculty, Joan Schneider and Karmen Williams, through the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD)
  - Signed articulation agreement with MSU Northern for 2 + 2 in Automotive Technology
  - December graduates in Practical Nursing program achieved 100% pass rate on NCLEX licensing exam
  - Automotive Technology earns re-certification through NATEF
  - English instructor, Mike Cronin, performs with his musical group in Student Center
  - March 11 the Campus Diversity Committee hosted a performance by the UM-Western's Polynesian Dancers on the Donaldson campus
  - Completed 5 hours of training for Retail Management System. Included: Business Office personnel, IT Department, Bookstore, Resale Parts and Café. Training was held in house via internet on March 23, 2009
  - Business Officer Retreat: One day retreat at the Barrister in Helena on March 27<sup>th</sup>, to work on department goals for assessment and job descriptions
  - Business Office hired a part time accounting intern for spring semester 2009
  - Accounts Payable Technician worked with vendor to replace 200 chairs for the campus. Chair were out of warranty but there was a defect and the vendor stood by their warranty and replaced them at no charge
  - UMH Access to Success held "Information Night" for students and parents on the Donaldson campus
  - Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) held on the Donaldson campus every Saturday until April 15
  - A Counselors Luncheon was held for high school counselors in the UMH Student Center
  - The National Guard NASCAR #88 driven by Dale Earnhardt Jr. was on display in the Fire & Rescue Lab for public viewing and free photos with the car were available to everyone
  - March 19-20 UMH hosted the Board of Regent's March meeting on the Donaldson campus
  - This spring the college experienced significant enrollment growth with a headcount of 1,138 and FTE of 789, representing 16% and 12% increases over spring 2008 respectively. Data reported to IPEDS

indicates the college significantly improved its year-to-year retention rate as well. Retention for first-time, full-time students from 2007 to 2008 was 59%, representing a 12% increase from 2006 to 2007

- In response to the economic downturn the college also piloted a program for dislocated workers, the Helena Workforce Stimulus Program, which provided reduced tuition as well as a series of small group seminars on college success skills, financial aid, and career exploration. 14 students participated in the program during the spring semester
- An online application for admissions was implemented on April 15<sup>th</sup>
- Recruitment efforts this spring included 37 individual tours, 10 group tours, 9 off-site visits and three campus visit programs hosting approximately 80 attendees.
- New initiatives included the 2009 UM-Helena Annual Report in calendar format, launching of a new quarterly community newsletter.
- New media developed to deliver campus news and announcements including flat screen monitors, reader boards and the transition of the weekly campus bulletin to an electronic format.
- Ongoing publicity campaign highlighting the College's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of "Putting Hands and Minds to Work."
- So far in 2008-2009 the financial aid office has awarded \$181,769 in grant monies (excluding Pell Grant) and disbursed \$3,446,746 in student loans, a 30% increase over 2007-2008, and \$86,809 in Work Study monies, an increase of 50% over last year.
- The financial aid office developed a number of resources to increase financial literacy, including workshops and informational materials on debt management.
- The financial aid office has received 450 FAFSAs as of March 31<sup>st</sup>, an increase of 12% from 2008.
- Development of new initiatives to improve efficiency and efficacy of new student advising as well as expand collaboration between student services and academic departments.
- 338 Early Alert Referral (EARs) contacts made during the spring semester to assist at risk students.
- Retention plan and model for predicting student success and attrition in development.
- Career Services met with Wyoming Machinery & Marigold Mining on their recruiting tour to promote employment opportunities for welding and diesel program graduates
- Initiatives are in progress to develop an electronic graduate employment survey as well as an interactive job posting forum accessible to students and employers on the college website.
- The Learning Center has seen 650 student visitors this year for a total of 11,413 hours spent in the Learning Center. Academic tutors have offered 2,776 hours of assistance to students.
- Disability Services has approximately 75 students registered this spring.
- A course substitution procedure was developed and approved for immediate implementation.
- Student Senate sponsored two Red Cross Blood Drives in Spring 2009
- Student Senate will sponsor an Egg Drop Contest and Spring BBQ at the end of the semesters.
- The College's Beta Omicron Omega Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the International Honor Society for two-year college students inducted 42 new members this spring.
- Student Senate supported an intramural basketball league hosted by the Helena YMCA
- Student Services and Student Senate co-sponsored "Free-Fridays" at both UM-Helena campuses to provide a social gathering and free refreshments for students.