



The University of Montana-Helena

COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

DATE: January 27, 2010
TO: Board of Regents
FROM: Daniel J. Bingham, PhD
Dean/CEO
UM-Helena College of Technology
RE: Campus Update Report for the March 2010 Board of Regents' Meeting

- The new UMH web site is up and running and is getting rave reviews; www.umhelen.edu
- Gary Frankforter has been hired as the new Facility Manager
- Two faculty were recognized with the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development Excellence Award. The two faculty, Michelle Holt, English Instructor, and Dave Jones, Auto Technology Instructor, will participate in a ceremony held in Austin, TX in May.
- Students in Accounting and Business Technology will participate with the Internal Revenue Service Volunteer Income Tax Assistance programming offering tax preparation for qualifying tax payers. These sessions are overseen by A&BT faculty, Barbara Yahvah and George Sonnenberg.
- Lance Foster, an adjunct faculty in Art and Anthropology, had his first solo book published by the University of Iowa press, "The Indians of Iowa".
- The Director of Library Services, Janice Bacino, served on the steering committee to bring renowned author Sherman Alexie to Helena in February. UM-Helena is honored to host a dinner with Mr. Alexie as he meets with area Native American high school students.
- The Learning Center reported increases last semester in individual student visits as well as hours of use which were up 23% and 49% respectively over the previous fall semester.
- Disability Services provided accommodations for 71 students last semester
- 85 veterans were assisted with VA benefits including 19 under the new Post 9/11 G.I. Bill. Student Services and the Business Office have collaborated to provide a deferred payment option for eligible veterans experiencing delays in the processing of their benefits.
- JobNet, a web-based forum that allows students and employers to connect by posting resumes, employment listings, and internship opportunities, is now available on the new UM-Helena website
- **UM-Helena reported strong retention rates this past fall. 57% of all first-time, full-time students and 46% of all first-time, part-time students who enrolled in the fall 2008 semester. This performance measure compares favorably to MUS and regional averages for two-year colleges.**
- UM-Helena is participating in Know How 2 Go Week. This first ever event in Montana is funded by a Lumina Foundation grant to the Student Assistance Foundation and Montana Tech's Educational Talent Search Program. It is 5 days of College Prep Activities for 6-12th grade students and their parents. UM-Helena will host High School Tuesday on Feb. 2nd 11 am – 4 pm.

- UM-Helena will also host an extension of College Goal Sunday on Wednesday, Feb. 3rd, 4:40 to 7:30 pm, offering another opportunity for Helena area students and their families to receive help with applying for financial aid.
- Admissions received a record 369 applications for the spring semester, a 47% increase from spring 2009, with a total of 278 new, transfer and readmitting students enrolling for classes.
- UM-Helena has a new institution specific admission application.
- The new Smart Start Program provides informative one hour sessions designed to take the mystery out of attending college. The regularly scheduled sessions for prospective students and their families will focus on program choices, how to enroll for classes and financial aid. There are 8 sessions scheduled this spring.