

ITEM 147-2901-R0510

Authorization to transition the operations of the MSU-Great Falls College of Technology in the Gallatin Valley to MSU-Bozeman

THAT

The Board of Regents authorizes the transition of the operations of MSU-Great Falls College of Technology in the Gallatin Valley to MSU-Bozeman, including all programs, personnel, services and operations effective July 1, 2010, in full cooperation with the objectives of the two-year college initiative known as College!Now.

EXPLANATION

Recognizing the potential of two-year education to increase higher education attainment levels in Montana, the Board of Regents has engaged in College!Now, a multi-year initiative funded by Lumina Foundation. The objectives of College!Now are to expand access to the more affordable two-year education options in Montana, to coordinate programming and technology to serve more students in meeting their educational needs, and to create administrative efficiencies that will make higher education opportunities more affordable both for students and for the state. This proposal advances all three of those objectives while addressing three significant challenges faced by MSU-Great Falls College of Technology operations in the Gallatin Valley:

- Administrative inefficiencies that affect both the breadth and quality of services students offered.
- Strain on the human and fiscal resources required to provide programming in a remote location.
- Inability to expand programs and services in the Gallatin Valley, in spite of the needs of the community and region and the goals of College!Now.

With the assistance of MSU-Great Falls College of Technology, MSU-Bozeman is committed to achieving the administrative efficiencies needed to retain the student-centered, affordable, and community-responsive two-year programming MSU-Great Falls College of Technology has established in the Gallatin Valley. In the future, in collaboration with its sister campuses in Billings, Great Falls, Havre and with the support of the local community, MSU-Bozeman will develop this operation as one of Montana's regional hubs for College!Now, providing its service area with affordable, high-quality developmental, transfer, and workforce programs.

RATIONALE

The proposed transition of the operations of the MSU-Great Falls College of Technology to MSU-Bozeman is based on three main factors:

1. There is a demonstrated need in the Gallatin Valley for 2-year educational opportunities, developmental education and workforce training and education.
2. The demand for 2-year educational offerings in the Gallatin Valley exceeds MSU-Great Falls College of Technology's ability to effectively and efficiently serve the needs of the community and the region.
3. Over the last ten years, Gallatin County has been the fastest growing region in the state of Montana, with a change in population of +33.2% (+8.1% for the state of Montana).

EXPECTATIONS

The following expectations related to the transition of the operations of MSU-Great Falls College of Technology are subject to review on an annual basis until May 2013:

1. MSU-Bozeman will create administrative efficiency, bringing low-cost, student-centered, community-responsive higher education opportunities to the Gallatin Valley residents.
2. MSU-Bozeman campus and leadership groups will embrace the unique identity of the two-year academic offerings, their role and impact as a regional resource.
3. MSU-Bozeman will strictly enforce Montana University System's admission standards and will work with the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education to clarify and strengthen the standards that will maximize affordability and student success across the Montana University System, while preserving mission differentiation.
4. MSU-Bozeman will develop an integrated information system and enrollment management strategies to provide students with seamless enrollment opportunities.
5. MSU-Bozeman will play an active role in pursuing the strategies defined by Montana's two-year education initiative, College!Now, in order to help build a stronger two-year presence in the state.