



**Date:** October 1, 2014

**To:** Board of Regents

**From:** Daniel J. Bingham, Ph.D.  
Dean/CEO, Helena College University of Montana

**Subject:** Campus Report for November 20-21, 2014, Board of Regents Meeting

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- In September, Welding Instructors Glen Zeigler and Justin Marks successfully completed National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) instructor certification training.
- Diesel Instructor Derrick Hauer attended the statewide outcomes assessment workshop at MSU Bozeman in October.
- Women in Gear at Helena College will be held in collaboration with Montana's Girls STEM Collaborative Project. Helena College UM is hosting a two-day event Friday and Saturday, November 7-8. Join us for the Fall Collaboration Conference, featuring networking, presentations from mini-grant awardees and plenty of STEM professional development on Friday and will include opening remarks in the morning by First Lady Lisa Bullock and in the afternoon by Lieutenant Governor Angela McLean. The Women in Gear Event on Saturday is designed to expose young women to high-skill, high-wage careers in trades professions. This annual event is sponsored by The Boeing Company who will host a reception and facility tours for workshop participants.
- The Helena Valley Timing Association sponsored a student event at the Airport Campus, Hot Rods, Hot Dogs and Cold Cash. This event brings association members, their hot rods and students together to raise awareness about the sponsored scholarships the association provides each year.
- The remodel of the four original restrooms on the Donaldson campus has been completed.
- Sodexo has entered into a catering arrangement with the college to provide food service on both campuses as a pilot project. The outcomes of the project are being monitored by both parties to determine the long-term feasibility of a catering agreement.
- Helena College is installing upgrades to a lecture hall area of the Airport campus that had only been shelled in during a prior construction. The upgrades include full HVAC functionality, carpet, and painting. The space will be equipped with tables and chairs so that it can be used for meetings and instructional presentations.
- The Helena College Automotive program purchased two 2014 Toyota Prius vehicles with money provided by the Perkins grant. These vehicles represent the latest in consumer ready technological advances in the automotive industry. Having the opportunity to work with this technology first hand will be a significant advantage to our students.

- Helena College is in the process of purchasing various industrial equipment under the TAACCCT grant for use by students in the TAACCCT related programs.
- Financial Aid disbursed \$2.5 in financial aid after the census date. Will be disbursing the second half of loans shortly after mid-term. The accepted amount loans for 14-15 are 20% less than the total amount of loans disbursed for the 13-14 AY. And, while the official default rate did go up by just over 3% to 14.9%, this is a leveling off from the prior two years, where there were increases up to 38%.
- All federal reports have been filed on time, and the request for federal funding for the TAAACCT programs has been submitted to the Department of Education.
- The Registrar's Office awarded 243 degrees for the 13-14 academic year. That is up 14% from the previous year. Admissions and Records received and processed 366 Dual Enrollment applications for fall semester 2014. That is a 53% increase from the previous fall.
- Helena College Veteran Services is working with 96 students this fall.
- Over 350 new students and over 300 returning students were advised for the start of the fall semester through the Student Support Center.
- Over 200 central Montana high school students were proctored the ACT Compass academic placement test.
- Academic Advisor II Krista Townsend and Faculty Writing Instructor Ben Nickol were selected to attend the national NACADA Conference in mid-October in Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- Director of Retention / Advising Rick Caron was selected for and requested to attend The ACT annual meeting and leadership training in Iowa City, Iowa, the end of October.
- Mathematics Instructor Joyce Walborn attended the Math Pathways Institute to develop a statewide plan to adopt alternative gateway courses to College Algebra for non-Calculus based majors that are more appropriately aligned with the skills students need to succeed in their programs of study.
- Writing Instructor Karen Henderson attended a workshop on August 19th and 20th at FVCC presented by Peter Adams of Community College of Baltimore County on Accelerated Learning Programs (ALPs) for developmental writing and first-year compositions co-reqs.
- Helena College has professionally redesigned 14 fully online courses that are being offered for the first time in the new format this Fall. Courses include consistent design, flow and expectations, and are created in conformance with the "Quality Matters" national framework for effective online design and delivery. Two "trial" courses offered online last Spring had 85% passage/completion rates, as compared to a typical online course rate of less than 60%!
- More than two dozen Helena College UM students this fall began pursuing the new articulation paths to bachelor's degrees in Criminal Justice and Health Administration (offered in partnership online with MSU-Northern and MSU-Billings, respectively).
- Helena College UM signed agreements with five high school faculty at partner institutions to utilize the new BOR temporary waivers, allowing them to begin offering dual credit courses while pursuing their discipline-specific graduate coursework.