



**Date:** June 10, 2015

**To:** Board of Regents

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

**Subject:** Campus Report for July 9-10, 2015, Board of Regents Meeting

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- Helena College was proud to award 212 diplomas to students during the academic year and 107 students participating in the commencement ceremony with Dr. Hal Stearns serving as the commencement speaker and Tim Rock, LPN, as the class speaker.
- Helena College's first Nursing summer cohort will graduate in August, and the College has accepted a record number of applications for Nursing this fall. In addition, the Helena College RN program is preparing for its regular ACEN accreditation visit and Nursing faculty are currently involved with various committees this summer to work on the TAACCCT IV grant.
- Valerie Curtin, Director of Financial Aid, is the Dean of Instruction at RMAFSA Summer Institute in Golden, CO. Summer Institute is nationally-recognized as one of the foremost training events for new and seasoned financial aid administrators. A weeklong, intensive, classroom-based format is designed to provide a comprehensive overview of federal financial aid programs, along with a back-end perspective of the regulatory issues that shape and govern these programs.
- Helena College Retail Services is in the process of completing construction of 'Bookstore East', our new retail outlet for the Airport Campus with expectations to begin serving students and employees at the start of AY16 academic year. Bringing Bookstore East to the Airport Campus will further enhance services and support food service which was initiated AY15.
- Recognizing student connectivity and engagement with the college and its employees is paramount to student retention and completion, Helena College will continue its relationship with Hobson's Starfish Retention Solution through June 2019. Adding to the existing Starfish Connect and Starfish Early Alert will be Starfish Advising – a module allowing students and their advisor to develop and provide each student with a proactive, personalized, step-by-step roadmap to degree completion, even as his or her goals and circumstances change.
- Ensuring all potential and current students are meeting their educational needs and goals, Helena College has implemented a campus-wide Recruitment, Retention and Completion Committee. Comprised of staff, faculty, directors, and administrators, systematic reviews of process, procedures, obstacles, and current best practices are being reviewed with the goal of student success at the forefront.
- Computer-aided Manufacturing students completed an innovative project sponsored by the Boeing Company. The funds were used to purchase high-end remote-controlled cars. Students

disassembled the cars in order to identify existing parts which were likely to fail. From this parts list, students designed and re-engineered parts which would not fail. The expected outcomes of this project were to enhance and increase students' abilities to:

- Operate as high-functioning project teams
- Develop higher-level critical thinking and problem solving skills
- Reinforce engineering and design skills

Students were able to identify design flaws in the product and re-design and improve key parts to improve the reliability of the product. An unexpected outcome of the project was recognition of the need for advanced communication skills between and among members of the team.

- Helena College UM awarded its first Certificates of Technical Studies (CTS) in Hybrid Vehicle Service Technology. Courses in this certificate of technical studies emphasize laboratory skills and a project-based experiences. The Hybrid Vehicle Service Technology Certificate prepares students for employment in automotive service technician occupations working with hybrid vehicle technologies such as:
  - Electric and Hybrid Vehicle Service Technician
  - Development Technician
  - Battery Service Technician
  - Electrical Test Technician
- Employment of automotive service technicians and mechanics is projected to grow 9 percent from 2012 to 2022, about as fast as the average for all occupations. Job opportunities for qualified jobseekers should be very good; however, the National Bureau of Labor Statistics<sup>1</sup> indicates a bright outlook for **automotive specialty technicians**:

*Projected to **grow much faster than average** (employment increase of 22% or more) over the period 2012-2022; and is listed as a **New & Emerging** occupation in a high growth industry.*

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<sup>1</sup> Growth and job openings source: Bureau of Labor Statistics 2012-2022 employment projections. Projected growth represents the estimated change in total employment over the projections period (2012-2022). Projected job openings represent openings due to growth and replacement.