



Date: January 23, 2015

To: Board of Regents

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

Subject: Campus Report for March 5-6, 2015, Board of Regents Meeting

- The addition of the summer cohort to the Nursing ADN program has been approved by ACEN as a substantive change. This will result in a 50% increase in student enrollment for this program.
- While nine students receiving veteran educational benefits transferred to other colleges for Spring 2015 semester, twelve veterans have returned to Helena College after being away for at least one semester. Also, fourteen new veterans have come aboard, making a total of 90.
- Student Affairs has developed a Campus Safety Card that lets students know who to contact. It contains information on the campus, as well as assistance with contacts at the city, county, state, and national level.
- Career Services coordinated an LPN job fair for current students and alumni on November 18. Sixteen LPN students attended and were able to network with potential employers and explore perspective employment scenarios (local, county, state, regional, and VA).
- Student Support Center Director Rick Caron attended a three-day leadership training with ACT testing in Iowa City, Iowa, this fall. He was elected Chair of the State organization. ACT provides Junior College Admission Test and Compass Placement Test in Montana.
- Financial aid continues to work with student to lessen barriers and make college more affordable while developing sound financial understanding. As a result, the amount of loans disbursed, while accounting for changes in enrollment (9%+), is down 20%.
- Assistant Dean of Student Affairs Elizabeth Stearns Sims' conference presentation proposal was accepted for the AACC Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas, in April. The title of the presentation is Always a Big Thing: Optimizing Student Success and focuses on the impact Starfish Retention Solutions has made at Helena College.
- Helena College has initiated a Recruitment, Retention, and Completion Committee to systematically review college process and procedures which may both promote success and impede student completion.
- Helena College recently became a member of Psi Beta, the two-year college psychology honor society. Helena College is the only Psi Beta member in Montana.

- Helena College has awarded the first three “Undergraduate Research” prizes to students completing outstanding research projects during the Fall 2014 semester. The research competition was created and overseen by Helena College’s Library. Students received a book voucher and were recognized at a reception with faculty, staff and students on 1/22/15.
- Helena College will conduct the College Survey of Employee Engagement (CESS) during the spring 2015 semester. The results of the survey, provided by Noel Levitz, will be used to measure the engagement and satisfaction of employees a key indicator of achievement for the college’s core themes and strategic plan.
- Helena College is currently modifying its equipment list and has received preliminary approval. Additional items to be purchased include two new diesel trucks and two Snap-on training certifications for torque and electrical. Helena College will become the first Snap-on certified institution in the state of Montana!
- TAACCCT resources will be utilized to further expand the developmental math impacts. These resources may include additional staff time for curriculum development and additional software/equipment. The objective is to further expand the delivery of developmental math using the Emporium method, online and interactive teaching methods.
- The workforce navigator has been contacted by additional employers and is expanding efforts to gather critical information on what employers are looking for in our graduates.
- The Department of Labor independent contractor, RTI, is gathering data to verify the implementation of the grant milestones. Helena College is currently reviewing and documenting its efforts in the specific areas of diesel, machining, welding, developmental math and the workforce navigator effectiveness. This data will be used as a springboard for further analysis for RTI’s anticipated onsite visit for the spring of this year.
- The Greg Gianforte Family Foundation recently donated \$500M for targeted students to receive scholarships for the trades programs towards the two year colleges in Montana. Helena College had seven students receive scholarships of \$1,000 to offset the costs of their tuition. Further scholarships are expected to be awarded for the fall 2015 semester.
- There are some equipment insurance challenges with the machining assessment centers. This has now been taking to the congressional delegation and Senator Tester’s office is now working on the behalf of the consortium to resolve.
- As of fall 2014, Helena College is offering 18 fully online courses that fulfill MUS common core.
- Chemistry Instructor John Hartman has been voted Chair-Elect of the MT section of the American Chemical Society.
- Math Instructor Kim Haughee was selected to receive the Rouche Excellence in Teaching award.