

University of Montana Western

Campus Report

March 2015

New Chancellor

The University of Montana Western is very pleased and excited to welcome Dr. Beth Weatherby as its 22nd chief executive officer. Chancellor Weatherby began her duties on Jan. 15. Prior to her selection as Chancellor, Dr. Weatherby served most recently as Provost of Southwest Minnesota State University (SMSU). During her more than two decades at SMSU, Dr. Weatherby also served as Professor of English, Creative Writing Director, and Dean of Arts and Sciences. Throughout her career Dr. Weatherby has demonstrated a strong commitment to communications and to the liberal arts.

Dr. Weatherby received her Doctor of Arts in English and Creative Writing from the University of New York at Albany in 1992. She has a B.S. in journalism from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. She won the President's Exceptional Performance Award in 2005 and 2006, and was a Minnesota Book Award winner for Short Fiction in 1998 for her work, "Small Invasions." She was a Salzburg Seminar Fellow in 1998, and in 1997, received a Loft-McKnight Artist Fellowship in Creative Prose. Dr. Weatherby also co-founded the SMSU Women's Studies Program and the New Works Faculty Forum at SMSU and has served on numerous campus and community boards and committees.

Chancellor Weatherby chose to apply to Montana Western because of the university's commitment to developing and implementing strong academic programs and services, as evidenced most prominently by its bold move to improve experiential learning through adopting and successfully implementing Experience One Block scheduling. The campus wholeheartedly believes she is the right person to lead Montana Western into its bright future.

Departed Interim Chancellor

The University of Montana Western is deeply grateful to interim Chancellor Roberta Evans and to President Royce Engstrom for appointing her to this position. Her great enthusiasm and energy, combined with her skills and knowledge, allowed her to accomplish a great deal in her five months of leadership at Montana Western. Bobbie greatly endeared herself to campus employees, students, and the community by sincerely praising their accomplishments while empowering and encouraging their future endeavors. While she remains devoted to the Missoula campus, she more than once commented that Missoula may be the Mothership but Montana Western is the Starship! She left a very solid foundation for the beginning of the Chancellor Beth Weatherby era. We thank her for her amazing accomplishments.

Strategic Plan

The new Montana Western five-year strategic plan, *Experience the Difference*, developed and approved under Chancellor Richard Storey and fully endorsed by Chancellor Weatherby is available on line at: <http://www.umwestern.edu/images/stratplan020314.pdf>
Paper copies of the plan will be distributed at the March Board of Regent meeting.

Medical School Acceptances.

Montana Western senior Justinn Marshall and alum Tyler Wines were admitted to the WWAMI (Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho) medical school program in January. WWAMI is a WICHE (Western Interstate Collaboration for Higher Education) program designed to give medical education to a fixed number of future doctors the WWAMI states and is funded by the states in the collaboration.

Khumbu Climbing Center

Geology professor Rob Thomas and chemistry professor Steve Mock traveled in January to the Khumbu Climbing Center (KCC) in Phortse, Nepal. The town is about 15 miles from the base of Mount Everest.

Mock is the co-director of the KCC, a non-profit organization working with Nepalese climbers and high-altitude workers to increase responsible climbing practices within Nepal's economically vital tourism and guiding industry. Mock teaches basic climbing skills while Thomas teaches climbing guides about the natural environment in which the guides work. Both are experienced at providing this unpaid professional service to KCC.

China Forum

Michael Schulz, director of UMW's Carson Library, joined colleagues from the University of Montana and Helena College for a trip to China Nov. 15-24 for the "Global Perspective: Academic Library Directors' Forum."

The forum included library directors, deans and associate deans from Erasmus University in the Netherlands, Rutgers University, University of Montana consortium campuses, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, West Virginia University and academic libraries from across China.

Military Friendly School.

The University of Montana Western has been named as a Military Friendly School by G.I. Jobs. As a military friendly university, G.I. Jobs recognizes Montana Western for offering exemplary programs and services to military and veteran students.

Wood Energy Award

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation recently presented the University of Montana Western with a plaque to honor the university's commitment to wood

energy. Montana Western is the only campus in the state to use wood heat. By using wood heat, the university has saved \$569,421 since 2007.

Rodeo Recognition

Montana Western's College Rodeo team was recognized in January by the Montana Pro Rodeo Hall and Wall of Fame as a Great Montana College Rodeo Program with a number of persons associated with the program, developed largely by Coach Lola "Olie" Else, receiving individual recognition. Complete information can be found at: <http://www.montanaprrodeo.org>