



Date: June 6, 2016

To: Board of Regents

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

Subject: Campus Report for July 2016 Board of Regents Meeting

- The Registrar's Office awarded 174 degrees for the spring 2016 semester. That is up 10% from last spring. There has been a total of 243 degrees awarded for the academic year, which is up 12.7% from last year.
- Helena College's commencement ceremony took place May 7, and the College was delighted to have President Royce Engstrom and Regent Casey Lozar in attendance. As part of the Class of 2016, Helena College graduated its first student in the Davidson Honors Pathway. Through this articulation between Helena College and the University of Montana, graduates of this Helena College program are directly admitted as a Junior to the Davidson Honor's College in Missoula.
- Since its inception in the spring of 2009, a total 305 students have graduated from Access to Success, a partnership that began between Helena College and Helena School District. This dropout recovery program housed on the Helena College Campus provides students between the ages of 16 to 21 with an opportunity to earn a high school diploma in an adult learning environment. Over half of the students who attend Access to Success at Helena College go on to higher education, into the military, or into an apprenticeship or training program.
- Helena College is remodeling the retail operations area on the Donaldson Campus. Currently the Bookstore and Food Court are separated by a wall and seating area. The wall will be removed, making a single area that will incorporate book sales, logoed gear sales, supplies, and food products. This change will eliminate the need to have a separate cashier for food service which will reduce the cost of operations.
- Helena College is currently reviewing the existing web site for enhancements including better information for potential students and easier access to information for students and employees. A task force has begun the process of prioritizing the types of information to be placed on the web site and reviewing other organization's web site for best practice ideas. The plan is to have the new web site completed and operating before the end of the calendar year.
- Helena College was able to purchase a 2016 Dodge RAM pickup with a V-6 diesel engine as part of the Perkins grant this year. This vehicle will be utilized by the Automotive program to teach students how to work on small format diesel engines and related equipment. This format of engine is an emerging technology in automotive and light duty truck applications.

- The ASRN program had a record number of applications for the Fall 2016 start receiving 50 applications for 16 slots. The ASRN program will admit a Spring cohort of RN students in order to accommodate those students who are eligible to complete their RN using the old-curriculum-two semester program.
- Planning for the 2017-2018 FAFSA with local high schools and campus-wide offices due to the federally mandated use of Prior Prior Year (PPY) information on the FAFSA, and new release of October 1. This pushes up the timelines for awards, marketing, tuition and fees, course offerings, etc. A push to file the 2017-2018 FAFSA is planned to take place during College Application Week.
- Helena College had its first Manufacturing and Technology Expo on April 22 that included approximately 15 industry partners (Snap-On, Boeing, Placer Motors, etc.). As well, there was military support for the Aviation Maintenance program by the presence of a Blackhawk helicopter. Turnout was very good with students from Helena, Townsend, and Boulder coming to the event. The goal of the event was to increase community awareness of Helena College Trades programs and recruitment of new students.
- Helena College has hired extremely qualified faculty into three existing positions – Aviation Maintenance, Anatomy & Physiology, and Office Technology, as well as in a new faculty position in Physics to continue enhancing the College’s STEM offerings. Two additional faculty positions are in the process of being refilled, including Accounting & Business and Computing Technology.
- Helena College TRIO is piloting a summer program called Summer Up to help new students refresh or improve their skills in math, reading, and writing during the summer. Coursework is free of charge. The program is designed around the needs of the student. The program’s goal is to decrease the amount of time a student spends in developmental coursework.