



Date: December 12, 2016

To: Board of Regents

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

Subject: Campus Report for January 12, 2017, Board of Regents Meeting

- Helena College Chemistry Instructor Dr. John Hartman has been reappointed as President of the American Chemical Society of Montana and has been appointed to the SEED Subcommittee of ACS at the national level.
- Helena College Computer Aided Manufacturing Program now has the authority to offer FANUC certification to students utilizing the latest automation technology in robots, CNC, ROBODRILL, and integrated solutions while applying science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) skills.
- Helena College Fire & Rescue Program has received a donation of a fire truck from the City of Helena Fire Department.
- Helena College Financial Aid Director Valerie Curtin is now a mentor on the leadership pipeline for the RMAFSA (Rocky Mountain Associate for Student Financial Aid Administrators). Helena College Financial Aid Specialist Karina Moulton is also on the membership committee for RMAFSA, and Financial Aid Specialist Wes Feist is the Vice President of MAFSA (Montana Association of Student Financial Aid Administration).
- As part of a partnership between Helena College and OCHE, sixth grade students from Montana City school toured the Donaldson Campus in November. Students observed simulation dummies with a healthy versus and an unhealthy heart, describing what they hear as well as listening to simulation dummies with healthy lungs versus those of a long time smoker. HC nursing students utilized glitter glow dust to demonstrate bacteria and the link between hand hygiene, illness and infection and taught proper hand hygiene techniques and methods. Another group of nursing students helped the youngsters to learn to measure sugar in popular and favorite drinks as well as alternatives to sugar high drinks. Students then moved to stations where they learned signs and symptoms as well as ways to prevent frostbite and hypothermia. A nutrition lesson included an experiment using gummy bears (sugar) and peanuts (protein) to explain how the human body utilizes nutrients. The resulting “exploding gummy bear” was an exciting and valuable lesson.
- Parent/Student FAFSA Completion Nights have been held in Helena, Boulder, Townsend, and Lincoln. Helena had an outstanding turn-out compared to prior years. Coordination between the FAO and area high school counselors has assisted with the roll-out of the new 1718 FAFSA Application date. The FAO has seen a 55% increase in the 1718 FAFSA submittal rate for the first 1

½ months the application has been available, as compared to the same number of days for the 1617 FAFSA submission rate. The FAO is positioned to begin sending 1718 awards December 5th.

- Wes Feist, Helena College's Grant & Loan Officer, has been selected to represent RMAFSA on a committee to update the FSA Handbook with the DOE at the annual FSA Conference November 29th – December 2nd.
- An estimated \$22,456 saved from disbursing onto student accounts for Fall 2016 term due to Never Attended Flags raised in Starfish.
- Helena College TRIO SSS program met all program objectives for 2015-2016 – 79% of participants persisted from Fall 2015 to Fall 2016, 93% of participants are in good academic standing, 41% of participants in cohort 2012-2013 received an associate's degree or certificate in four years, and 12% of participants in cohort 2012-2013 transferred from a 2-year to a 4-year institution with an associate's degree or certificate within (4) years.
- Helena College Disability Resources continues to serve students with disabilities for fall semester 2016 and has begun the accommodations enrolment and renewal for spring 2017 semester. Plans are currently in the works for a reconfiguration of the testing facility at the Donaldson campus which will accommodate more students as well as provide additional space for community proctored testing.
- The Helena College Student Support Center (SSC) has initiated several data collecting and tracking mechanisms to gauge and assess student activity and engagement:

Data Tracking and Assessment

- Reactivating and updating AccuTrack, used for and extensive analysis on students visits and time-on-task which aids in meeting funding requirements, reporting to upper-level administration, allocating resources, and optimizing services.
- College Board-ACCUPLACER has replaced the Compass Test Placement system to determine if students are prepared for college-level course or if they would benefit from developmental course. ACCUPLACER is a web-based system that provides a comprehensive drilldown of student information and course placement.

Academic Support Resources

- Pearson Smarthinking is an academic support program that gives students online access to live, on-demand, one-to-one assistance from over 1500 trained and qualified tutors up to 24 hours a day.
- The Student Support Center (SSC) offers ongoing training/development for staff, advisors and tutors on the best practices in providing tutoring, career development, academic advising and building student agency and has implemented the action-oriented "intrusive advising model" and "development advising method" motivating students to seek help when needed and to encourage development as a whole person.

Community Engagement and Outreach

- The Student Support Center partners with the local business community and educational organizations to close the gap between the theoretical and practical application. Students get the opportunity to engage and network with business leaders, practitioners, and educators through internships, career fairs, open houses, and guest lectures.