

DATE: Monday, Dec. 12, 2016
TO: Montana Board of Regents
FROM: Beth Weatherby, chancellor
SUBJECT: Campus Report for the November 2016 Board of Regents meeting

Student wellness coordinator receives national recognition.

Student wellness coordinator LEXI BENSON was recently named a 2016 OUTSTANDING ADVISOR by the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) for her work in promoting student health and safety.

NASPA is the leading association for the advancement, health and sustainability of the student affairs profession. Established in 1918 and founded in 1919, the organization has 15,000 members in all 50 states, 25 countries, and eight U.S. Territories.

Benson receive the award at the 2016 BACCHUS (Boosting Alcohol Consciousness Concerning the Health of University Students) Initiatives of NASPA General Assembly in Kansas City, MO.

KBZK News airs in-depth story on Main Hall renovation.

KBZK television news of Bozeman, Mont., aired a comprehensive STORY ABOUT HE 10-YEAR RENOVATION of Montana Western's 120-year old Main Hall building.

KBZK's Chet Laymen of Montana This Morning met with historical architect Ken Sievert to tour the building and talked about the multi-year project.

The story includes details about the most recent renovation of the old library, now the state-of-the-art model classroom. The classroom was built to serve the needs of Montana Western's Rural Fridays program, which brings elementary students from rural schools to be taught by pre-service (students) teachers.

Professor discovers strange bird.

University of Montana Western Professor of Biology JACK KIRKLEY DISCOVERS HYBRID SPECIES OF GRACKLE BIRD.

There are several subspecies of Grackle, but the Common Grackle is the typical type found in Montana. Kirkley has documented the first recorded case of a non-Common Grackle nesting in Montana.

He teamed up with fellow Biology Professor Mike Morrow and his Advanced Molecular Biology class to do DNA tests on feathers of the rare bird and his offspring. Their tests proved the offspring are a new hybrid species. Students were able to tackle the Grackle mystery thanks to the experiential based learning that Montana Western's Experience One (X1) Program provides.

University receives Military Friendly School designation.

The University has EARNED THE 2017 MILITARY FRIENDLY SCHOOL DESIGNATION from the publication Military Friendly Schools.

The publication is a resource for veterans and service members to assist them in the selection of a form of education that trains for civilian careers. It cited Montana Western's military scholarships, credits from military service and training, online and distance learning opportunities and the university's Veteran and Military Exchange (VMX) program.

VMX has been on Montana Western's campus since 2013 and provides support and resources for veterans, active military members, their families and advocates.

Senior Tess Turk named “Volunteer of the Game.”

TURK was named “VOLUNTEER OF THE GAME” for her COMMUNITY SERVICE by Montana Campus Compact and the Governor’s Office of Community Service.

Montana Campus Compact is Montana’s largest higher education network and works to improve community life by educating students for civic and social responsibility. The Governor’s Office of Community Service expands and promotes national service and volunteerism in Montana and engages citizens in service and emergency preparedness.

Turk is the current president of Montana Western’s rodeo club and team captain for the rodeo team. She helps coordinate the annual banquet, raising \$40,000 in scholarships. She was selected by her peers to be the Big Sky Regional student director for the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association which involves helping organize the Collegiate National Final Rodeo.

Student becomes pack string expert with promising career.

Environmental interpretation major Trepper Osburn STANDS TO ASSUME THE HEAD PACKER POSITION at the Forest Service’s Rocky Mountain Regional Specialty Pack String in central Colorado when the current packer retires. He is qualified for the position because of his high level of education and vast experience as a mule packer. As a packer Osburn leads his string of mules into remote areas providing supplies where motorized vehicle aren’t allowed.

X1 has allowed Osburn to use the first block class offered in the fall semester to finish the packing season until late September. With the flexibility Osburn can maintain a job that gives him valuable experience and he doesn’t fall behind on crucial class material because he can pick up an extra course second block. This wouldn’t be possible in a traditional college setting.

New equine instruction option begins.

The 2016-17 school marks the BEGINNING OF THE NEW EQUINE INSTRUCTION OPTION for the University of Montana Western’s natural horsemanship majors.

This option was developed with the Certified Horsemanship Association (CHA) to meet the groups high standards of certification requirements. The certificate increases the employability of its instructors and ensures the instructor has the necessary experience, knowledge and skills to teach horsemanship.

The new option fulfills a significant need in the equine industry and was created with input from former head executive vice-president of the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA), Don Treadway.

Montana Western is able to offer students classes with real-world experiences because of its X1 program where students take a single class at a time for eighteen days.

Oral history class receives grant to preserve rural education.

History professor ERIN ZAVITZ RECEIVED A GRANT FROM HUMANITIES MONTANA for her class, ‘Voices from Montana’s rural schools: an oral history project.’ For the class students recorded interviews of past and present students and teachers of rural schools.

The grant the class received helped fund travel expenses and brought in knowledgeable speakers of both oral history and rural education.

The recordings were used for research papers and submitted to the Beaverhead County Museum as a form of preservation. Students then gave a public talk about the significance of rural schools in Montana.

Montana Western has a long history of dedication to rural education and students were active participants in this unique form of preservation thanks to the X1 program’s hands-on focus.