



Date: December 20, 2017

To: Board of Regents

From: Jane G. Baker
Dean/CEO, Helena College University of Montana

Subject: Campus Report for January 11, 2018, Board of Regents Meeting

- Helena College graduated 16 RN students from the Old Curriculum on December 17. The first LPN students following the New Curriculum will start in the Spring 2018 and will complete their program during the summer using a block format.
- Helena College students experiencing an unexpected medical hardship preventing them from completing their coursework may now apply for a medical hardship withdrawal. Applications are reviewed by a committee. If approved, the student will receive a tuition waiver to be used on a future semester within two years of the withdrawal. Three Helena College students have already been approved for a medical hardship withdrawal for Fall 2017.
- Helena College has updated its domain name to <http://www.HelenaCollege.edu/> and, as of November 6, 2017, has revamped the website to make it more user-friendly and easier to navigate with separate sections for students and employees. Along with the switch of domain names, Helena College email addresses now end in @HelenaCollege.edu.
- A ceremony was held at Helena College Donaldson campus on December 1 to honor the memory of Helena College students who passed away either during or shortly after their time here. Speakers included the parents of Joe Smietanka, a Helena College who passed away last fall, and Dalton Johnson, Vice President of Helena College Student Government Association. Following the short ceremony, attendees stepped outside for an official tree-lighting. Our thanks to the Helena College TRIO Club Students2Scholars for spearheading this project
- Helena School District is in the process of rebuilding three elementary schools, one of which is Bryant School near Helena College. The College is coordinating with them on traffic control and has been actively attending meetings to provide feedback on schematic floor plans and conceptual three-dimensional images of the building.
- Helena College is participating in the City of Helena Railroad Urban Renewal Area Tax Increment Financing Advisory Board as a representative of the MidTowne & Sixth Ward Neighborhood Association. This group has been formed to advise the Helena City Commission in the redirection of unspent tax funds to increase the property values in this area of town.
- The ASE (Automotive Service Excellence) organization asked Helena College Automotive Instructor Joe Zimmerman to sit on a panel to write test questions for the national ASE examinations. Nearly all automotive dealers nationwide require their technicians to pass ASE examinations to become

certified technicians. They provided him an all-expense paid trip to Virginia to participate in this event. This is quite an honor and shows the excellence of our faculty and our program!

- Helena College is conducting a mid-cycle update to its strategic plan. In May 2017, the College held a day-long all-inclusive event facilitated by Dr. Stacy Klippenstein from Miles Community College. Input was collected from the entire college, distilled, and referred to the Strategic Planning, Accreditation, and Assessment (SPAA) committee. Since May, members of SPAA have refined the College's Strategic Goals and the committee is preparing to present a penultimate draft to the campus for review and final input in January 2018. The timing works perfectly as Helena College is also preparing to submit its Year One report to NWCCU by March 1 along with an ad hoc report in relation to a Year Seven recommendation.
- Helena College's Light Board/One-Button Studio has been completed, is permanently installed, and has been used by faculty, staff, and students to record lectures, interviews, and other projects. Demand for access to the studio is strong and growing, and this new tool is expected to have beneficial effects across the entire college.
- Helena College has begun the transition from one Interim Dean/CEO to another. In addition, Dr. Chad Hickox announcing his coming departure from the College by mid-February. January 16 will be the first official day on campus for Dr. Kirk Lacy, although he will be participating in various campus and community meetings prior to that date. Jane Baker's last day on campus will be January 19 before she rides off in the sunset to retire... again. :)