



Date: May 2, 2018
To: Board of Regents
From: Kirk P. Lacy, Ed.D.
Interim Dean/CEO, Helena College University of Montana
Subject: Campus Report for May 23-24, 2018, Board of Regents Meeting

- RegisteredNursing.org ranked Helena College as #2 in their *2018 Best RN Programs in Montana* list, stating "Helena College's associate degree in nursing pathway prepares students to become a successful part of an interdisciplinary team of healthcare providers. The 5-semester curriculum gives students the knowledge needed to sit for the NCLEX-RN examination for nursing licensure." The first cohort of LPN students in the New Curriculum will begin their second semester using a block format for the summer months and will be graduating in August. Our last RN class from the Old Curriculum will graduate in May.
- The Helena College Psychology Club and Registered Nursing students have teamed up to sponsor a suicide prevention program called Fresh Check Day on April 24th. As well, the Registered Nursing students will also be presenting a Health Fair to the Bryant Grade school promoting preventative care.
- Helena College hosted the 6th Annual Montana Two-Year College Research Day on Friday, April 13th at their Donaldson Campus. This is the second time Helena College has hosted the event, and this year's event was organized by Dr. John W. Hartman and Jenn Bergner. Students from two-year colleges across Montana presented research in areas ranging from **The Future of Transplant Organs**, the **2018 First Nations Launch**, **The Effect of Archery on Coping with Stress and Anxiety** to **Transformation of the methicillin resistance gene (mecA) from methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) into Escherichia coli**. Seventeen research projects were presented by students from Helena College, Chief Dull Knife College, Great Falls College, Missoula College, and Highlands College. John McKee, founder, owner and chief technology officer of Headframe Spirits in Butte, MT, served as keynote speaker. McKee explained the science behind continuous flow distillation and the extensive amount of research that went into developing the process he utilizes at Headframe and markets worldwide. The intent of the Montana Two-Year College Research Day is to showcase the exciting research performed by students attending Montana's two-year colleges. The location for the 2019 Research Day has yet to be determined, but organizers are hopeful it will become an annual event.
- Two more Helena College graduates have applied and been accepted to the Skaggs School of Pharmacy via an articulation agreement with the University of Montana. While this Associate of Science Transfer degree program is specifically designed for

students seeking admissions into the Skaggs School of Pharmacy at UM, it does not guarantee admission. However, Helena College is proud to report that, of the five students who completed the transfer degree and applied to the Skaggs School of Pharmacy, all five have been accepted.

- Helena College hosted Women in Gear on Friday, April 27th at the Helena College Airport Campus. Twenty-two females ranging from grade 8 to adult engaged in hands-on demonstrations in careers ranging from welding and diesel technology to computer aided manufacturing. The event was co-sponsored by The Boeing Company, Montana Career Pathways and Career Training Institute in Helena.
- Dr. John W. Hartman ("the Helena College Chemistry Department"), Immediate Past Chair (two terms) of the Montana Section of the American Chemical Society, is now in his second year as a member of the ACS national committee Project SEED which oversees a \$3 million annual budget providing hands-on chemistry research experience to economically disadvantaged high school students through paid summer internships. Dr. Hartman was also successful in obtaining a \$2,500 Project SEED award to host a high school research student this summer at Helena College. Dr. Hartman will be presenting two papers (one on his current research and one on chemical education) at the 256th ACS National Meeting in Boston this August, and has been invited to present at the 2018 Northwest Regional Meeting (NORM) on research at two-year colleges and the future of Project SEED.