



The University of Montana Western Campus Report

DATE: Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2019
TO: Board of Regents
FROM: Beth Weatherby, Chancellor
RE: Campus Report for the November 2019 Board of Regents' Meeting

- **Chancellor Weatherby Receives Montana Ambassador Award**

Governor Steve Bullock recently announced the 2019 Montana Ambassador Awards, honoring individuals who have contributed to economic development in Montana, including UMW's Chancellor and the Mike Malone Educator of the Year, Dr. Beth Weatherby.

"I'm honored to accept this award on behalf of everyone at Montana Western. This is clear recognition of the great work our faculty, staff, and administrators do

"It's my honor to recognize this group of hard-working Ambassadors who ensure that Montana remains one of the best places in the country to live, work, play, start a business and raise a family," said Governor Bullock.

The honorees were recognized at an awards ceremony and reception on Oct. 14 in conjunction with the 2019 Innovate Montana Symposium in Butte.

- **UMW Professor Earns Title of Professor Emeritus**

Dr. Steve Mock has been conferred upon by the Montana University System Board of Regents for the title of Professor Emeritus of Environmental Sciences. Dr. Mock served the University of Montana Western with dedication and valued service for 28 years and retired last spring.

Over the last few years, Dr. Mock provided opportunities for students to travel to Nepal and work with him at the Khumbu Climbing Center near Mt. Everest, where he currently serves as Director. He also serves as the President of the Denali Rescue Volunteers in Alaska.

- **Iola ‘Olie’ Else Inducted Into Cowboy Hall of Fame**

The Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame (MCHF) and Western Heritage Center (WHC) have announced the newest inductees into the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame, including retired Montana Western rodeo coach, Iola ‘Olie’ Else.

The MCHF and WHC was founded in 2003 by the Montana State Legislature as a nonprofit organization. The goal of the organization is to preserve and pass forward the Montana cowboy way of life, the state's American Indian cultures, and the collective Montana Western Heritage.

The inductees will be honored at the annual Circle the Wagons event in Great Falls, Mont., to be held February 7-8, 2020.

- **UMW Ranked Among Best Colleges by U.S. News & World Report**

U.S. News & World Report has bestowed the University of Montana Western with several rankings in the Western region. The rankings include #9 in Best Regional Colleges, #9 in Best Value Schools and #6 in Best Colleges for Veterans. One of the most unique aspects of Montana Western is the Experience One program, an innovative scheduling system that allows students to focus on a single course at a time.

The fields of academic study at UMW include Biology, Business and Technology, Environmental Sciences, Education, English, Equine Studies, Health and Human Performance, Fine Arts, Mathematics, and History, Philosophy, and Social Sciences.

- **Montana Western Athletics Recognized by NAIA**

The University of Montana Western has been named as one of the NAIA Champions of Character Five-Star Institutions for the 2018-19 academic year. The NAIA Champions of Character program provides training for student-athletes and professional development for coaches and staff. It places an emphasis on providing character-driven athletics programs including the five core values of integrity, respect, responsibility, sportsmanship and servant leadership.

Montana Western's NAIA Athletics' Programs include football, men's and women's basketball, volleyball, men's and women's cross country, men's and women's indoor track, and men's and women's outdoor track.

- **UMW Professor Participates in Global Symposium**

Business Professor Christian Gilde took part in the fall 2019 Salzburg Global Seminar. The Salzburg Global Seminar is an independent, non-profit organization founded in 1947 which challenges current and future leaders to

shape a better world. The program holds multiple events every year aiming to bridge divides, expand collaboration and transform systems. Professor Gilde brought his expertise in marketing and consumer behavior to contribute insight into how the internet and social media has changed the way we consume news and view politics.

- **Dennis Briening Hosts Scientific Glass Demonstration at UMW**

Glass artist Dennis Briening hosted a public lecture and a scientific glass making demonstration on October 10, 2019, in the Emerick Art Studio on the UMW campus concluding a two-week residency working with Montana Western students.

Now retired, Briening was Salem Community College's renowned Instructional Chair for Scientific Glass Technology. Prior to this role, he taught as an adjunct instructor at SCC for nearly 30 years, managed the College's Glass Center, and coordinated the noncredit glass program. In 2016, Professor Briening was honored at SCC as a Distinguished Alumnus for his years of professional accomplishments and community service as a glass ambassador.

Montana Western offers a certificate, associates and bachelor's degree in Glass, where students can specialize in Artistic or Scientific Glass Blowing.

- **Louis Habeck and "Imaginarium" Visits Montana Western**

Louis Habeck visited the UMW Fine Arts Gallery this fall for an artist talk and gallery reception of his exhibition titled "Imaginarium." Habeck's unique perspective on sculpture and photography combine to make scenes that explore imagination and creativity.

Habeck's passion for sculpting and art started at a young age. His attention to detail gives special life to his exhibition that featured fantastical creatures, saying that it all starts with the eyes. "The eyes hold much of the emotion and is typically what I work on last. It is the finishing touch that captures the entire theme of the work and sets the tone."

- **Montana Western Launches New TRIO Bridge Program**

This fall, the UMW TRIO Student Support Services welcomed 40 incoming first year students to campus for the new Bridge Program, a two-day event designed for eligible students.

The TRIO program has offered a first year program since 2011 that consists of workshops covering all aspects of how to be a successful college student. This year, in order to further meet student needs, the Montana Western TRIO staff decided to launch their first TRIO Bridge Program event to help familiarize the students with the campus before the first day of class.

The program also featured several activities for the students to connect with the campus community, and upon the program's conclusion, the participants volunteered to help other students move into the residence halls.

- **Beaverhead Marathon Awards First Scholarship**

The Beaverhead Marathon Scholarship has awarded its first scholarship to student-athlete Shelby Walls. The scholarship was founded in 2018 and is awarded to a member of the UMW Cross Country team.

The founders of the Beaverhead Marathon Casey Parrott, Dylan Zitzer, and Cory Birkenbuel held their first event in May 2018, which featured a full and half marathon that explored the Dillon area. The marathon was established to fund a scholarship for student cross country athletes and continues to be an annual community event.