

Date: June 17, 2020

To: Board of Regents

From: Sandra J. Bauman, Ed.D.
Acting Dean/CEO, Helena College University of Montana

Subject: Campus Report for June 2020, Board of Regents Meeting

DEAN'S OFFICE

- In May, Dean/CEO of Helena College Laura Vosejka resigned to return home to her family in Michigan. Sandra Bauman, who was serving as the Associate Dean of Academic and Student Affairs at Helena College, has been named Acting Dean/CEO.

eLEARNING

- Amy Kong, Director of eLearning created a guide, "[Teaching Remotely Guide](#)" for instructors. The guide lists out all the technologies instructors can use for teaching remotely and provides examples of transforming various face-to-face class sessions to online sessions.
- Throughout the summer, instructors will have access to a training guide, "[Summer Faculty Training](#)" created by the eLearning department. The training sessions highlight different instructors sharing remote teaching strategies, quality course design, LMS navigation, instructional technologies for remote teaching (e.g. TEAMS, WebEx, Screencast-O-Matic, GoBoard), and creating accessible online materials. Most of the training sessions are recorded. Instructors have access to the recordings on TEAMS. Some of the training offer stipends as incentives to promote faculty engagement.
- The eLearning Office is also working with the Helena College Disability Coordinator to develop an "instructional equity" plan that accounts for equity gaps that may be exacerbated by increased reliance on instructional technology for instructors.

ART OF NARRATIVE (TRIO)

The **Necessary Narratives** program, created by TRIO, continues to grow and expand. The program now has an assistant position through work-study, who helps with editing, recording, and website maintenance, gaining real-world production skills that can be applied to a variety of careers. The website (<https://www.necessarynarratives.org>) is redesigned, grouping stories together by theme and making it easier for visitors to search the contents. New recordings are continually added as the program expands to include the greater HC community, including faculty and staff. The podcast is in production and will launch fall 2021.

This summer, TRIO is collaborating with Continuing Education to launch "**The Art of Narrative**," a virtual workshop that uses storytelling to build equity and foster student success. Workshop participants will learn and practice the narrative process as a means of supporting, guiding, and empowering students. Taught by author and HC faculty member, Virginia Reeves, the workshop explores the background of storytelling, traditional plots of stories, a variety of prompts, the idea of self-authorship, and the appropriate norms and ethics of disclosure. The workshop will utilize a variety of different online features and modalities, including large and small group discussions; breakout work; forums; interactive whiteboards; and video recording and editing. In addition to learning the content, this workshop familiarizes participants with tools to use in their own online instruction and advising. By holding the workshop online, it is accessible to faculty and staff from across the state and nation, in both secondary and higher education, and we hope to offer additional sections throughout the year.

FILM PROJECT (TRIO)

The TRIO program has recently hired film professor and filmmaker, Dr. Ari Lee Laskin, to produce a short film on Montana TRIO students. The goal is to document their experiences, struggles, resilience, and triumphs as first generation, non-traditional, and under-represented college students. Many of the students within the TRIO demographic often feel a sense of 'imposter syndrome' yet paradoxically this demographic constitutes a large percentage of Helena College as a whole. By highlighting the struggles and successes of a diverse group of TRIO students, the aim of the film is to show that the college and TRIO is here precisely to serve their unique needs. Further, many of the students within the film have remarkable stories of successfully overcoming dramatic obstacles. These stories will serve to model both scholastic and vocational paths for incoming, current, and graduating Helena college students. Since the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown, in-person filming was hampered. The film production has transitioned to interviewing our subjects remotely as well as asking them to document their experiences navigating the challenges of the shutdown itself. Surprisingly, the pandemic is proving to be an opportunity for creating something innovative and responsive to our current moment yet will have import beyond this particular health crisis. Hopefully, the first viewing will be in July.

NURSING

- The nursing department had a record number of nursing applications for the fall 2020 and spring 2021. Fifty qualified applications were submitted for twenty-four slots.
- The entire senior nursing class (16) successfully completed the Helena College nursing program and are now preparing to sit for NCLEX. Currently, two students have taken NCLEX and have passed.

FINANCIAL AID

- Helena College has currently awarded just under \$70,000 out of a total of \$342,000 in Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF). There has been a less than 20% response to the application sent to all Title IV eligible students at this time. Notifications were sent via email, student newsletter, Facebook, and on the website. Helena College is seeking other ways to attempt to have a greater response to the application as is required by the OCHE CARES Act Guidance. Disbursement has been difficult due to the stipulations placed by the U.S. Department of Education (ED) and OCHE.
- Helena College is currently re-requesting almost \$40,000 Title IV funds for students who had previously withdrawn from the spring 2020 term as was allowed by ED's guidance.
- Helena College completely utilized the Associated Students of Helena College's emergency fund of \$5,000, as well as \$9,800 emergency SEOG funds, and almost exhausted the only discretionary fund Helena College has to offer to students for emergency funding that did not qualify for the HEERF funds.
- To date Helena College has received just under 1,000 FAFSAs, of which 780 were unduplicated and 130 were not currently admitted.
- The Financial Aid department expects to receive a significant increase in professional judgement/special circumstance requests for the 2020-2021 AY due to the pandemic and deteriorated economy and is unsure of the ability to assist these students with the lack of discretionary funds and/or foundation assistance.