

March 5-6, 2020

ITEM 187-1503-R0320

Request for Authorization for Renovations for new Nursing Simulation (SIM) Lab at Montana Technological University

THAT

Consistent with MCA 18-2-102(2)(c) and Board of Regents Policy 1003.7, the Board of Regents of the Montana University System authorizes Montana Technological University to implement steps necessary to renovate space in the Science and Engineering building for a new Simulation (SIM) lab for the nursing program.

EXPLANATION

The Nursing Department at Montana Tech's vision is to be a leader in baccalaureate education in Montana. As healthcare becomes more complex and the need for nurses with higher levels of education increases, the Montana Tech graduate will have both the academic preparation and clinical experiences necessary to meet the healthcare needs of the citizens of Montana and beyond.

The integration and further development of simulation opportunities throughout the nursing curriculum is supported by current research findings of National Council of State Board of Nursing (NCSBN) National Simulation Study. Substitution of high-quality simulation experiences for up to half of clinical hours, produce end of program educational outcomes and graduates who prepared for clinical practice according to this study. Creation of a Simulation Center provides Montana Tech with opportunities for innovation in educational delivery and outreach. Additionally, a mature simulation program assures Montana Tech Nursing to maintain flexibility in clinical education to meet the demands of the rapid changing healthcare environment. The new simulation lab will enable Montana Tech to increase enrollment and provide better retention of our Nursing students.

The Simulation Center would be located in the Science and Engineering building and occupy 4,752 SF on the north side of the first floor. The center would consist of four patient rooms, four debriefing rooms and a centralized control room. The space is currently vacant and was previously used for multiple labs by General Engineering. The General Engineering labs (now Civil Engineering and Mechanical Engineering) have relocated to the new Natural Resource Research Center.

The project is funded with private funds. Private donors have pledged funds over the next four years but Montana Tech would like to begin construction in the summer of 2020. Montana Tech is working with the University of Montana to allocate bridge-financing funds from the September 2019 Bond issue.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment #1: Board of Regents Policy: Physical Plant B Section 1003.7