



The University of Montana Western Campus Report

DATE: Wednesday, June 15, 2022

TO: Board of Regents

FROM: Michael Reid, Chancellor

RE: Campus Report for the July 2022 Board of Regents' Meeting

- **2022-23 Chancellor's Leadership Scholars Announced**

The Chancellor's Leadership Scholars Award is a four-year, full-tuition scholarship awarded to exceptional students residing in the state of Montana who will be attending the University of Montana Western in the fall.

Montana Western is proud to announce the six following high school seniors as the 2022-23 award recipients: Jenna Anderson, Bridgett Ellis, Josiah Hull, Kannadie McMahon, Gabryele Veltkamp, and Ryan Yeske.

"Congratulations to the recipients of this scholarship that recognizes leadership, community service, and academic excellence. We look forward to seeing you on campus at Montana Western this fall," said UMW Chancellor Michael Reid.

- **UMW Alumna Wins Rural Teacher of the Year**

Cooke City School educator, Lara Belice, was named the 2022 Montana Rural Teacher of the Year this spring at the Montana Association of County School Superintendents award ceremony in Lewistown, Montana. Belice earned her bachelor's degree in 2017 in elementary education K-8 with a literacy minor in K-12.

Park County Superintendent of Schools, Mollie Waldum, nominated Lara Belice for her dedication to the school and exceptional performance. Along with a cash prize, Belice will be attending the National Rural Education Association conference in Green Bay, Wisconsin this fall and will also participate in the National Rural Teacher of the Year competition.

- **Administrator Airlift Event Held at UMW**

The Montana Youth Challenge Academy, in partnership with the Montana National Guard 1-189th General Support Aviation Battalion and the University of Montana Western, hosted an Administrator Airlift event on May 5.

Two Black Hawk and two Chinook helicopters landed and took off from the football practice fields on the south side of the Montana Western campus throughout the day.

The event allowed Montana high school administrators, counselors, and staff an opportunity to tour MYCA and UMW facilities, observe cadets and staff, and learn more about the Challenge model of youth development and the University of Montana Western and Experience One.

Attendees flew in from locations across the state including the cities of Kalispell, Missoula, Great Falls, Helena, Butte, Billings, and Bozeman. The purpose of these events is to create statewide partnerships so that the MYCA can better assist at-risk youth. The National Guard is also able to complete valuable required training hours from these events.

- **UMW & Bank of Commerce Performing Arts Series Presents “Mythfest”**

The University of Montana Western’s Fine Arts Department and Bank of Commerce Performing Arts Series held its spring performance festival, Mythfest 2022, from April 21 - May 4.

This online and live festival featured a collection of performances of classic theater including works by playwright Federico García Lorca, voices from history, singing cowboys, songs of the sea, and original music as part of the 2021-22 Bank of Commerce Performing Arts Series.

The festival was a collaboration between the University of Montana Western and Arizona State University. Directed by Miranda Zent, the festival features work from students, faculty, and guest artist Oscar Giner.

Giner is a dramatic poet who has been working in the American Southwest and in his native Caribbean for over four decades. He recently translated, acted and directed Summer, Summer by Myrna Casas, at the Off-Broadway Cherry Lane Theatre in New York.

- **Montana Western Names Students to 2022 Spring Semester Dean’s List**

The University of Montana Western named 508 students to the 2022 spring semester Dean’s List. To achieve this honor, students must be enrolled full-time or for 12 semester credits and carry a minimum 3.33 grade point average. Please visit our [website](#) to learn more and to view the complete list.

- **UMW Ranked for Best Online Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education**

The University of Montana Western was recently ranked 10th for the Best Online Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education by Best Accredited Colleges.

Best Accredited Colleges recognizes that each student has unique needs and goals and their rankings highlight schools that put these needs first, while providing an education that is both attainable and of high quality.

The school ranking lists are created using a proprietary ranking system that includes data from the U.S. Department of Education and individual program details.

- **125th Annual Commencement Ceremony Celebrates UMW Graduates**

The University of Montana Western held its 125th Annual Commencement Ceremony on Saturday, May 7, 2022 in the Straugh Gymnasium on the UMW campus.

389 Montana Western graduates were awarded 420 degrees. Of the 389 students, 40 completed two or more degrees, and 64% of the graduates received honors by achieving a GPA of 3.33 or higher. Over 200 graduates chose to participate in this year's ceremony.

Legendary Stanford Women's Basketball coach, Tara VanDerveer, was featured as this year's commencement speaker and J.P. Gallagher received the Distinguished Alumni Service Award during the event.

- **High School Graduates Awarded the Youth Serve Montana Scholarship**

The Governor's Office of Community Service, Reach Higher Montana, and Montana Campus Compact announced that 83 Montana high school seniors have been awarded a \$1,200 Youth Serve Montana Scholarship.

Recipients that will be attending the University of Montana Western in the fall of 2022 include Hayden Hedges from Cut Bank High School, Mariya Tregidga from Butte Central Catholic High School, and Kya Wood from Flathead High School.

"We are proud of these outstanding students and offer our sincere gratitude for their service across Montana," said Kelly Cresswell, Executive Director of Reach Higher Montana.

- **Spring and Summer Facility Projects at Montana Western**

Facility Services at Montana Western is currently working on several projects on the campus with objectives including completion of the Atlantic Street Renovation project to improve the visual appearance and ADA access points along the front of campus and the creation of a complete tree inventory in collaboration with the Department of Natural Resource Conservation

and the Dillon Tree Board. This inventory will then be used to inform campus master planning for the management of trees on the Montana Western grounds.

Other projects in progress include the campus Heating Plant upgrade which includes the installation of a replacement boiler and upgrading equipment and infrastructure, and an exterior door card swipe system for Main Hall is planned to be installed in the fall.

The State of Montana Architecture & Engineering Division have formally issued an RFQ (request for qualifications) for architectural engineering firms to provide engineering schematic design and cost estimates for the Block Hall Renovation Project. It is anticipated that the bid for contractors will then be issued sometime in January/February 2023. For more information about these and other projects, visit the [UMW website](#).

- **Beaverhead Chamber of Commerce and UMW Hold Second Annual Treasure Hunt**

The Beaverhead Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture and the University of Montana Western Glass Arts Program have partnered for the second year in a row for the Annual Beaverhead Treasure Hunt. One-of-a-kind, beautiful glass art objects, custom-made by UMW Glass students, will be hidden at local businesses and on campus from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Over 100 glass art objects made by the students in the University of Montana Western Glass Arts Program, under the instruction of Professor Ruth King, will be hidden in the businesses and historical sites of Bannack, Dillon, Lima, Dell, Grant, Jackson, Wisdom, Wise River, Dewey, and Glen.

- **Bulldogs Excel at NAIA Outdoor National Championships and Head to the CNFR**

Eireann Rhein (O'Connor), Jonathan Harrison, and Morgan Baseley recently competed in the NAIA Outdoor National Championships in Gulf Shores, Alabama. Baseley competed in the Half-Marathon and finished 21st, Harrison earned his first ever All-American by finishing 7th in the 800m and Rhein finished 9th in the 5,000m final.

Six members of the UMW rodeo team will compete in Casper, Wyoming, in the College National Finals Rodeo held June 12-18. Representing Montana Western and competing for championships include the following student-athletes: Bryce Harrison, competing in Steer Wrestling, James Ramirez, competing in Tie-Down Roping, Trevor Kay, competing in Bareback, Carson Klinger, competing in Saddle Bronc, Jake Cerini, competing in Heeling, and Kaycee Rogers, competing in Goat Tying.

- **UMW Presents Choral Concert & Vaudeville Show**

Montana Western's Fine Arts Department presented the select choral group, the Cantabileers, on April 26 and "The Knickerbockers' Theater of Titillation and Talent" on May 4.

The Cantabileers worked together all semester to put together a fun and dynamic program to share with the community. Students served in leadership roles every step of the way and chose songs from popular musicals and other lesser-known selections. The group's director is Montana Western professor, Dr. Debbie Seacrest, and Susie Steadman accompanies the group on piano.

"The Knickerbockers' Theater of Titillation and Talent" offered a public demonstration of eight acts of vaudevillian theatre, including "The Fantastic Flame-O," "The Headmaster," "Box and Cox," and a brand-new act titled, "How Tough am I?" The production was directed by Montana Western Assistant Professor of Theater, Stephen Seder.