



The University of Montana Western Campus Report

DATE: Wednesday, April 20, 2022

TO: Board of Regents

FROM: Michael Reid, Chancellor

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

- **Montana Western Announces Fundraising Milestone for Sports & Activities Complex**

The University of Montana Western Foundation has announced that over \$2.3 million has been secured, roughly half of the goal for a new Sports & Activities Complex on the UMW campus.

Once the full amount of funds for the Complex have been raised, which is estimated to cost \$4 – 5 million, construction is planned to take place on a parcel of land that was pledged in 2019 from John and Phyllis Erb adjacent to campus near the Bulldog Athletics and Recreation Center. The Complex will be funded through private support and is one part of a larger fundraising effort to also support scholarships and academic initiatives for UMW.

- **Tara VanDerveer to Speak at Montana Western Commencement Ceremony**

The University of Montana Western's 125th Annual Commencement, to be held on Saturday, May 7, 2022, will feature speaker Tara VanDerveer, legendary Stanford Women's Basketball Coach, the all-time winningest coach in women's basketball.

VanDerveer has cemented herself as one of the top coaches in the history of the sport, both collegiately and internationally, and is a member of both the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame and the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame.

VanDerveer recently pledged to donate funds for humanitarian relief efforts for Ukraine based on \$10 donated for each successful three-point shot, from every team in the 2022 NCAA women's tournament from beginning to end. Her 1996 Olympic champion U.S. national team played in Ukraine several times, facing the Ukrainian national team in the capital city of Kyiv in advance of the Atlanta Games.

VanDerveer is also a vital benefactor to Montana Western's tribal college partnership program with Blackfeet Community College and Little Big Horn College.

- **2022 Colt Sale Raises Over \$200,000 for Natural Horsemanship Program**

The University of Montana Western's Sixth Annual Colt Challenge and Sale, held April 1 and 2 at the Montana Center for Horsemanship, generated more than \$200,000 for the UMW Natural Horsemanship Program.

Every year, as part of the Colt Sale course, UMW students work with young horses to be trained and sold at live auction the following spring. Students showcase their colts and the variety of ranch tasks they are trained to perform.

The highly anticipated event brings in buyers from around the country and the proceeds from the sale are donated back into the Natural Horsemanship program for scholarships and facility updates.

- **Montana Western Announces 2022 "Night of Stars"**

The University of Montana Western's Education Department and Alumni Office, in partnership with Stockman Bank, will present the Ninth Annual Night of Stars on April 23, 2022 on the Montana Western campus. This year's Night of Stars will induct five Montana Western alumni into the Education Hall of Fame in recognition of their phenomenal dedication to education and will honor eleven current education students as Outstanding Teacher Candidates.

The Hall of Fame inductees are Anke Davis, Kent Paulson, Jim Keef, Christina Sieminski and the Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to Earl Barlow.

The Outstanding Teacher Candidates are Anita Crowshoe, Jade White Clay, Katherine Brown, Josie Jenkins, Holly Rumsey, ShayAnne Boyes, Mattea Burke, Emily Gardner, Bridger LaPierre, Kyrah Jones, and Devin Turner.

- **Montana Western Environmental Science Students Receive Jobs in Hydrology**

Two students from the Department of Environmental Science, Torie Bollinger and Kori Mooney, have received positions as Seasonal Hydrologic Technicians for the United States Forest Service in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest.

"Montana Western has allowed me to be in the field and gain skills hands-on. This has really prepared me for the position this summer where I will be in the field frequently. I value the amount of time that we have made the outdoors our classroom," Bollinger said.

Mooney would like to credit the Montana Western faculty for helping guide and mentor her as she has progressed through her academic career.

Both students will graduate from Montana Western in May.

- **Montana Western Student Receives Volunteer Award**

University of Montana Western senior, Emily Engen, has received the 2022 Montana Student Volunteer Award. Emily Engen, a senior majoring in English, has been an active member of

Montana Western's campus community for the past four years, as well as in her home community of Fort Benton.

She serves as the director of summer reading at the Chouteau County Library and plays clarinet for Fort Benton's Community Band each summer. On campus, she is a writing tutor, mentor for incoming freshmen, an active member of Montana Western's Honors Program and is Vice President of the Honors Student Association.

- **UMW Honors Dr. Jane Helm Maddock Service Award Winners**

On April 6, 2022, Montana Western honored three outstanding community members for their service and support at the annual Dr. Jane Helm Maddock Service Awards Ceremony.

Dr. Jane Helm Maddock was a Professor of English at the University of Montana Western for 17 years and was recognized as Professor Emeritus of English upon her retirement by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

The service award is named in her honor and memory and presented to those who have performed extraordinary service to the campus and community. The awardees were Dr. Alan Zetler, Gerta Mular, and Terri Haverfield.

- **Montana Western Kicks Off Heating Plant Upgrade Project**

During the 67th Legislative Session last spring, House Bill 5 appropriated \$2.495 million to the University of Montana Western for heating plant upgrades. The primary scope of the project is to replace the existing biomass (wood chip) boiler with a dual fuel natural gas boiler. It also includes replacement of ancillary equipment including the deaerator tank, surge tank, feed water pumps, new equipment controls, upgraded environmental controls, and building envelope improvements.

This new boiler, with two other existing natural gas boilers, will result in a best-in-class heating plant. Contractors began on-site work in March and the project is expected to be completed this fall.

- **Tribal Futures in Education Online Event and Auction**

The community was invited to a special online event on Tuesday, February 22 to support the teacher education program in the Blackfeet community of Montana. Blackfeet Community College is a Tribal College partnered with the University of Montana Western to fill a critical need for Native teachers and significantly benefit Native students.

Pat Armstrong, a Blackfeet leader, educator, and musician, was the auctioneer and Lona Running Wolf, a Blackfeet education and cultural leader and UMW faculty member, led the event. They provided an engaging, educational, and inspiring perspective on the teacher education program.

- **Montana Western & Bank of Commerce Performing Arts Series Presents "Silent Sky"**

The University of Montana Western's Fine Arts Department presented "Silent Sky" February 24-26 and 28 as part of the 2021-22 Bank of Commerce Performing Arts Series.

"Silent Sky," written by Lauren Gunderson, was directed by Instructor Larry Brazill and featured the talents of UMW students, faculty, and community members. The true story of 19th-century astronomer Henrietta Leavitt explores a woman's place in society during a time of immense scientific discoveries when women's ideas were often dismissed until men claimed credit for them. Leavitt and her female peers changed the way we understand both the heavens and Earth.

- **Montana Western Celebrates National TRIO Day**

Students from Montana Western's TRIO program participated in the 2022 National TRIO Day of Service on February 28 to express appreciation to the community for its support of TRIO programs. National TRIO Day is a day of celebration, reflection, and action around increased access to higher education for disadvantaged students.

Federal TRIO programs across the country have been providing valuable support services to help first-generation students and students from low-income families, veterans, and students with disabilities, enter and graduate from college. For millions of students from low-income families who strive to be the first in their families to attend and graduate from college, TRIO Student Support Services makes a world of difference.

- **Montana Western Fine Arts Gallery and Glass Program Host Artist Preston Singletary**

The University of Montana Western Fine Arts Gallery and UMW Glass Program held an exhibition, artist's lecture, and hot glass demonstration by renowned Northwest Native glass artist, Preston Singletary.

The art of Preston Singletary has become synonymous with the relationship between European glass blowing traditions and Northwest Native art. His artworks feature themes of transformation, animal spirits, and shamanism through elegant blown glass forms and mystical sand-carved Tlingit designs. Now recognized internationally, Singletary's artworks are included in museum collections around the world including the British Museum in London. He also teaches, lectures, and exhibits internationally.

- **Montana Western Hosts 52nd Annual Rodeo Banquet**

The 52nd Annual Montana Western Rodeo Banquet was held on Friday, April 1, in the Keltz Arena. This year's "Friends of UMW Rodeo" honorees were Race and Shelly King.

Race King has been instrumental in supporting the UMW Rodeo Team for over 15 years. He is currently the Ranch Manager at the Selkirk Division of Matador Ranch and Cattle Company where the Rodeo Team is practicing for the spring season.

The funds generated from the Rodeo Banquet help offset travel expenses during the regular season and CNFR. Additionally, banquet proceeds assist in providing scholarships for UMW rodeo student-athletes.

- **Montana Western Student Honored as Newman Civic Fellow**

The Newman Civic Fellowship recognizes students who stand out for their commitment to creating positive change in communities locally and around the world. In the spirit of Dr. Newman, one of the Campus Compact founders, fellows are nominated by Campus Compact member presidents and chancellors, who are invited to select one outstanding student from their campus each year.

Brooklyn Suden is a first-year student at Montana Western majoring in Business Administration with a minor in visual arts and is the first-ever UMW student to be named to the board of the local United Way organization.

- **Montana Western Receives Military Friendly School Designation**

The University of Montana Western has received the 2022-2023 Military Friendly Schools Designation and silver ranking. Montana Western opened the Veterans Military Exchange (VMX) in 2013, to provide support for current and past service members, their families, and advocates.

The VMX offers access to computers, reintegration support, financial aid assistance, and other services. Military Friendly Schools cited Montana Western's military scholarships and credits for military service and training, online and distance learning opportunities and the university's VMX program for the designation.