



The University of Montana Western Campus Report

DATE: April 19, 2023
TO: Board of Regents
FROM: Michael Reid, Chancellor
RE: Campus Report for the May Board of Regents' Meeting

- **Montana Western Announces \$11.8M Raised in Historic Experience One Campaign**

University of Montana Western Chancellor, Michael Reid, publicly announced the university's plans for major investments in scholarships, academic programs, athletics, and student wellness as part of the \$13M Experience One Campaign earlier this spring. The largest-ever fundraising campaign in UMW's history will increase scholarship support for students, expand academic programs and the impact of Experience One, create a new Student Wellness Center, and construct a new Sports & Activities Complex on the UMW campus.

Following the public launch, the UMW Foundation announced that Stockman Bank is contributing a \$50,000 matching gift to the Experience One Campaign for the "Stockman Over the Top Challenge." The dollar-for-dollar match of the next \$50,000 in gifts will support Montana Western's new Sports & Activities Complex project. This gift is in addition to an earlier \$65,000 donation to the same project.

- **Phil Willett to Receive UMW Alumni Distinguished Service Award**

The University of Montana Western's 126th Annual Commencement Ceremony, to be held on Saturday, May 6, 2023, will honor Phil Willett with the University's Alumni Distinguished Service Award. Willett has been involved with Montana Western in various capacities for over 20 years. He has been on the Montana Western Foundation Board of Directors since 2016 and currently serves as the Board Chairman and on the current Capital Campaign Committee.

"Montana Western is proud to honor Phil Willett with the Alumni Distinguished Service Award. Phil's support of the university and community is unparalleled. We are grateful for his commitment to Montana Western and for the opportunity to recognize his years of dedication," said Montana Western Foundation and Alumni Director, Roxanne Engellant.

- **2023 Colt Sale Raises Over \$180,000 for Natural Horsemanship Program**

Every year, UMW Natural Horsemanship students work with young horses donated by well-known area ranches as part of the Colt Starting course, to be trained and sold at live auction the following spring. The highly anticipated event brings in buyers from around the country and the proceeds are donated back into the Natural Horsemanship program for scholarships, facility updates, and other program needs.

This year's event began with the Challenge competition on March 31, 2023. Students showcased their colts and the variety of ranch tasks they had been trained to perform. Montana Western student, Molly Jackson, placed first in the Colt Challenge riding RSR Tarida from the Roaring Springs Ranch. Jackson was awarded a \$2,500 scholarship from CHS and a custom saddle from American National Insurance and Frecker's Saddlery. The sale, held the following day, generated over \$180,000, averaging \$10,069 per colt. The highest selling colt was MR Fritz Badger, ridden by Gus Hoffman and donated by Hollenbeck Ranch.

- **Montana Western Holds "Night of Stars" Education Hall of Fame Event**

The University of Montana Western's Education Department and Alumni Office, in partnership with Stockman Bank, will hold the Tenth Annual Night of Stars on April 22, 2023.

This year, five Montana Western alumni will be inducted into the Education Hall of Fame in recognition of their phenomenal dedication to education and twelve current UMW education students will be honored as Outstanding Teacher Candidates. The inductees include: Jerry Delaney, Lacie Puyear, Jim Gilboy, Jolene Isakson Allen, and Wayne Loeffler. The Outstanding Teacher Candidates include: Kortni Guardipee, Mesa King, Brynley Fitzgerald, Shelby Austin, Tona Iwen, Cassidy Hartsoch, Ella Smith, Logan Thompson, Sarah Detlaff, Noah Danielson, LaDawn Plainfeather, and Taylor Jones.

- **UMW Hosts Indian Education for All Events and Flag Ceremony Community Gathering**

The University of Montana Western hosted a series of events on April 14, 2023, including Indian Education for All presentations in the morning and a flag ceremony community gathering in the afternoon. Mike Jetty, Indian Education for All (IEFA) Specialist from the Montana Office of Public Instruction, provided a general IEFA presentation for the campus and community, followed by an IEFA session for UMW faculty.

Montana Western's Office of Student Success and American Indian and Minority Achievement (AIMA) Committee invited the campus and community to a flag ceremony event held in the Beier Auditorium. Honored guests from the Blackfeet Nation presented Montana Western with a Tribal flag as part of a special event celebrating the partnership between UMW and the Blackfeet Nation which will be displayed in the Keltz Arena on the UMW campus.

- **UMW Students Selected to 2023 Western Regional Honors Council Conference**

University of Montana Western students Draylen Sawyer, Jonah Lindsey, and Kimberly Giannone were selected to present at the 2023 Western Regional Honors Council (WRHC) Conference at the University of Montana's Davidson Honors College from March 30 – April 1, 2023.

Sawyer's presentation focused on the history of Japanese American internment camps, Lindsey presented "Subterranean Circuits: Undergraduate Field Testing of Electrical Resistivity Tomography," and Giannone showcased her photography portfolio titled "Sweat and Sagebrush, a Look Inside Ranching in Southwest Montana."

- **Dr. Glen Johnson and Alyssa Creighton Named as Dr. Jane Helm Maddock Service Award Recipients**

The University of Montana Western honored outstanding community members, Dr. Glen Johnson and Alyssa Creighton, with the 2023 Dr. Jane Helm Maddock Service Award on April 12, 2023, for their extraordinary service to UMW and the Dillon community.

Five UMW students were recognized for their civic and volunteer engagement during the event, including: John Mears, Dennison Civic Engagement Scholarship recipient, Mesa King, Montana Athletes in Service award recipient, and Rachel Marchant, Newman Civic Fellowship Award recipient. Maggie Lund and Jacob Christenson each received the Dr. Jane Helm Maddock Student Service Award.

- **Gaasch Family Honored as this Year's "Friends of UMW Rodeo"**

The Montana Western Rodeo team and Head Coach JT Robbins honored Andy and Anna Belle Gaasch, their son Ryan, and his wife Lindsay, during the Annual Rodeo Banquet as this year's "Friends of UMW Rodeo."

"Families like the Gaasch's are vital to Montana Western Rodeo's success. They don't think twice about helping out, and I'm so grateful for their generosity. We wouldn't exist without supporters like them," said Robbins.

- **UMW Student Awarded 2022-23 George M. Dennison Civic Engagement Scholarship**

Montana Campus Compact, a network of higher education institutions committed to promoting civic and community engagement, recently announced the 2023 George M. Dennison Civic Engagement Scholarship recipients.

This year, ten students, including University of Montana Western student, John Mears, were awarded \$1,000 scholarships in recognition of their outstanding contributions to their communities. The recipients were selected based on their leadership qualities and dedication to serving others.

- **UMW Foundation Announces Establishment of George and Ellen Nelson Family Scholarship**

The University of Montana Western Foundation was honored to announce the establishment of the George and Ellen Nelson Family Scholarship endowment. The love for Montana Western has been passed down for generations in the Nelson family. Ellen's mother, Genevieve McCracken, earned a teaching degree from Montana State Normal College (now the University of Montana Western) in 1930. George and Ellen both attended Western Montana College (now UMW) and received their degrees in education. Their daughter, Linda, attended Montana Western along with their granddaughters, Mackenzie and Madison Rask.

This scholarship will be awarded annually to a Montana Western student who is an active participant in campus activities including athletics, clubs, and service organizations and will celebrate the legacy of the Nelson family's ties to UMW.

- **UMW Foundation Establishes Scholarship in Honor of Dr. Robert M. Miller**

Dr. Robert M. Miller, DVM, is one of the world's foremost authorities on equine behavior. A retired large and exotic animal clinician, Dr. Miller revolutionized the concept of imprint training as it pertains to horses and has spent the last 40 years as an educator and author. In honor of his 96th birthday, the University of Montana Western Foundation and the Miller Family have established an academic scholarship to be awarded to an outstanding student in the UMW Equine Studies Department in his honor.

Dr. Miller is the author of 23 books and films on horsemanship and imprint training and his acclaimed "Natural Horsemanship Explained" is used as a textbook in Montana Western's Equine Studies curriculum. He has visited six continents teaching the principles of imprint training, which has been implemented in stables, breeding programs, zoos, wildlife sanctuaries, and game preserves worldwide.

- **UMW & Bank of Commerce Performing Arts Series Presents Off-Broadway Production of "Puffs"**

The University of Montana Western's Theatre Department presented "Puffs, or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic" March 24 – April 2 as part of the 2022-23 Bank of Commerce Performing Arts Series.

The play was written by Matt Cox and was directed by Montana Western's Adjunct Assistant Professor of Theatre, Stephen Alan Seder, and featured UMW students, faculty, and staff.

- **International Fly Fishing Film Festival Comes to Dillon**

The 2023 International Fly Fishing Film Festival was held on March 18, 2023, in the Beier Auditorium on the Montana Western campus and featured 10 short and feature-length films. The festival is the world's leading fly-fishing film event, consisting of films produced by professional filmmakers from all corners of the globe and showcases the passion, lifestyle, and culture of fly fishing.

Films in the festival included "The Focus," a story of three anglers who revisit a remote mountain stream; "Chesapeake – A Love Letter to a Watershed," featuring the landscapes and environments of a unique location; and "Gold Fever," exploring the undiscovered water in the middle of the Amazon jungle.