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To: Board of Regents

From: Les Cook  
Chancellor, Montana Technological University

RE: Campus Report for March 13, 2025, Board of Regents Meeting

- Highlands College was awarded \$5.75 million by the U.S. Department of Labor to develop micro-credential programs that will train broadband workers across Western Montana. This initiative is being implemented in partnership with other academic institutions and local telecommunications employers. The grant is one of 18 awarded to colleges in 14 states, aimed at supporting community colleges in scaling affordable, high-quality workforce training programs to meet the skill development needs of employers and workers in critical industry sectors.
- One-hundred percent of Montana Tech Nursing Graduates who took the NCLEX-RN exam in May 2024 and December 2023 passed. The NCLEX-RN is the licensing exam required to become a registered nurse in the U.S., Canada, and Australia.
- The Sherry Lesar School of Nursing at Montana Technological University recently earned the Healthcare Simulation Standards of Best Practice endorsement from the International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning (INACSL). Fewer than 50 colleges, universities, hospitals and healthcare providers worldwide have earned this prestigious endorsement, which recognizes excellence in core areas of healthcare simulation.
- Students at Montana Tech's Underground Mine Education Center (UMEC) will continue to benefit from hands-on experiences that prepare them for careers in the mining industry. This is thanks to Komatsu Mining Corp. in Billings, which generously donated labor to install a new engine for the UMEC's MTI/Komatsu LT-270 Mucker. The engine was provided at a competitive price by Cummins, Inc. The UMEC is an interdisciplinary educational space located in the former Orphan Boy and Orphan Girl Mines, situated immediately west of campus. It hosts courses for Mining Engineering, Geological Engineering, Environmental Engineering, Metallurgical and Materials Engineering, and Occupational Safety and Health, while also serving as a research facility.
- The Highlands College Automotive Technology program has maintained a strong partnership with Denny Menholt Ford of Butte for the past seven years. Over the last year, the dealership donated four vehicles, including a 2013 Ford F-150. These vehicles provide students with opportunities to practice brake repairs, suspension replacements, alignments, transmission repairs, and more. Additionally, Denny Menholt Ford donates defective parts, such as transfer cases, allowing students to diagnose issues, disassemble components, and reassemble them. The dealership also offers mentorship and internship programs to support students.
- The Casual Clothing Closet recently opened to help students access essential items such as coats, jackets, hats, gloves, work pants, and steel-toed boots. These resources are intended to support student success, even during challenging times. Donations to the closet are appreciated and are tax-deductible.