



MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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January 10, 2005

Dear Members of the 59th Montana Legislative Assembly:

I am pleased to provide you with the attached report on policy goals and accountability measures for Montana's public post-secondary institutions. The Post-Secondary Education Policy and Budget Joint Subcommittee first agreed upon the measures and goals in July of 2002, with the understanding that it would be updated for subsequent legislative sessions. The report is available again in both hard copy and on the Regents' website at: <http://www.montana.edu/wwwbor/AccountabilityReport.htm>.

During 2004, legislative members of the PEPB subcommittee held three unprecedented joint meetings with the full Board of Regents. The subcommittee members have been important contributors to guiding the project known as Shared Leadership for a Stronger Montana Economy. Steering Committees comprised of citizens from all over Montana are finishing their preliminary recommendations on building a stronger Montana economy through policies related to educational opportunity. A draft report will be available in mid-January for comment by the Governor, the Legislature, Congressional Delegation, business and non-profit leaders in Montana. For further information regarding Shared Leadership efforts, check out the website at: <http://www.sharedleadership.montana.edu>

The purpose of the attached report is to identify areas of importance to students, citizens, and policy-makers, and to guide improvement efforts. Members of the Board of Regents and I are prepared to discuss any part of the accountability report or the Shared Leadership project with you. We welcome the opportunity to engage members of the Legislature in frank discussion about the Montana University System. We are all stakeholders in the delivery of post-secondary education to Montanans that is high quality, affordable, and that enhances individual lives and the whole state of Montana.

Sincerely,

Sheila M. Stearns
Commissioner of Higher Education