



MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education

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November 4, 2002

TO: Montana Board of Regents
FROM: Joyce A. Scott, Deputy Commissioner for Academic & Student Affairs
RE: Accountability Reporting for the 2003 Legislature

In Summer 2002, the Montana Legislature's Joint Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education Policy and Budget, the Board of Regents, and the Executive Branch came to agreement upon statewide public postsecondary education policy goals and accountability measures. These accountability measures will be used as an assessment tool for policymakers, the university system, and the public in evaluating the achievement of the policy goals in the next session.

On September 5, staff convened a meeting of representatives from the Legislative Fiscal Division and campus Institutional Research or Registrar's Offices with Data Warehouse experts to discuss the accountability items, the data sources, and the optional presentation formats. From this meeting, OCHE came away with a model presentation format of some 30 pages. Since the meeting, staff have refined and consolidated the data and the format, yielding a written report of approximately 12 pages.

In assembling the data for this report, the Montana University System staff have used, whenever possible, third-party national or regional data sources. Among these are the Grapevine Reports, Institutional Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDs), WICHE Fact Books and the surveys of the Association of University Technology Managers for patent and licensure information.

A summary of the policy goals and performance indicators is attached to this communication. The Montana University System accountability report will be ready for distribution to the Legislature, as specified, on January 17, 2003.

Pc: Commissioner Crofts
Rod Sundsted
Mary Craigle