College!Now Implementation Team Conference Call

Date: February 10, 2011

Location: Teleconference

Participants: Anneliese Ripley, UM Western; Anne Clark, Evaluator, CRA; Barry Good, UM Missoula COT; Bob Hietala, Gallatin College Programs; Dan Bingham, UM Helena COT; Greg Kegel, MSU Northern; Jane Karas, FVCC; Joe Schaffer, MSU Gt. Falls COT; John Cech, OCHE; John Garic, MT Tech UM; Sue Jones, OCHE; Tom Gibson, OCHE; Vern Gagnon, MSU Billings COT. Stefani Hicswa, MCC (excused).

John thanked the group for participating in last week’s Communications/Engagement RFP meeting in Bozeman. Below is a recap of Task Force and Subcommittee appointments:

Mission and Vision: Joe Schaffer and Daniel Bingham/Co-Chairs

John reviewed the steps to bring the vision and mission forward to the Regents with an eye toward allowing time for all involved to share initial drafts with constituents.

1. After Joe and Daniel create the initial Draft, it will be distributed to the Implementation Team to allow time for them to share with their respective communities.

2. Once feedback is received and further tweaking done by Joe and Daniel, by February 22 John will take the Draft to Commissioner Stearns for review and comment.

3. John will share the Draft with the C!N Leadership Team.

4. Proposed Mission and Vision statement will be presented to the March 3rd and 4th Board of Regents meeting as a component of John’s report on two-year and community college education.

RFP Research Resubmission: Joe Shafer, John Garic, Bob Hietala

- Joe commented that they will be working to clarify the question/problem for the RFP and will then do follow-up communication.

RFP Internal/External Communications: Stefani Hicswa, John Cech/Co-Chairs; Tara Roth, Barb McAlmond

- Goal is to draft the “Scope of Work” for the RFP within the next two to three weeks. John will call Stephanie to work out a timeline.

Baseline Inventory: Anne Clark
Anne had volunteered to help conduct an inventory to collect data to establish a baseline determination of how far two-year colleges are in achieving a “comprehensive two-year college mission.” There was discussion about how to do this without having the mission and vision statement in place. There was also a reminder of the BoR Resolution #2 from August 2009 with reference to the discussion and concerns expressed at that time. The
group decided that once we have a clearer understanding of mission, vision, and roles, we can conduct the review more effectively and efficiently. John emphasized this should not be a labor intensive process.

John pointed out that the community colleges are likely already in line with what we’re trying to achieve here, and that the colleges of technology/Gallatin College Programs are most apt to want to benefit from an overall clarification of mission and vision of two-year colleges in Montana.

**TAACCT Grant**
John has been in touch with Heather O’Loughlin in Senator Baucus office.

- There is a federal movement to tap into some of the funding in the 4th year of the grant cycle to provide temporary federal funding for workers receiving TAA benefits. However, the funding for years 1, 2, and 3 are solid.

- The grant initiative is very directly tied to TAA affected workers in Montana.

- Our statewide focus on Developmental Education (Math) and Distance Delivery/Cisco Telepresence is in line with grant intent. This will benefit all participating colleges (so far 17 public and tribal two-year colleges/two-year programs signed on)

- FVCC will be the applicant for this statewide grant due to their huge number of TAA workers in their region. UM Missoula COT will play a very important senior role.

- John discussed the advice he received from Senator Baucus office that new program development center around locations which have experienced significant TAA layoffs. Brad is working with Tyler Trevor and Dave Morey to pull these figures together. John will disseminate.

As noted above, Tyler Trevor, OCHE and Dave Morey, MT DoLI are collecting information on where the majority of the TAA workers reside in Montana. They will soon have more demographic data compiled. We are seeing that in Montana the primary locations that are affected are Flathead and Missoula counties. Currently, the submission of the proposal must come from the primarily affected areas. Senator Baucus is encouraging the US DOL to relax the grant guidelines for year two so they do not focus so heavily on serving only TAA workers.

**Implementation Team Communications**
It was agreed that we shall conduct a face-to-face meeting on March 2 from 1-3 p.m. at the Helena College of Technology. More details to follow. Daniel will find a location.

The meeting adjourned at 10 am.