

August 2, 2007

ITEM 137-02-C0807

Workforce Training in High Demand Fields

THAT:

The Board of Regents approves the list of campus proposals recommended by the Commissioner of Higher Education for workforce training funding.

EXPLANATION:

The 2007 Legislature appropriated \$1.5 million of one-time-only funds to the Montana University System for the purpose of supporting workforce training needs in high demand fields. The legislation directs the Commissioner's Office to facilitate a competitive process to distribute the funds, whereby \$700,000 must be matched by no less than one-half the appropriation amount from non-state funds.

Following the legislative session, the Commissioner's Office released an RFP eliciting proposals from each institution, including the community colleges. In early July, representatives from each campus assembled, along with individuals from industry and the State Workforce Investment Board, to score and rank proposals in order to provide recommendations for funding to the Commissioner.

The Commissioner's recommendations are based on the RFP committee's rankings and state-wide need. The recommendations are in full compliance with the legislative match requirements.