

Montana Board of Regents Strategic Plan

Annual Update & Review

History of the Plan

The development of the strategic plan began four years ago with two initiatives. The first was to work more closely with the interim legislature to develop a set of mutually agreed upon accountability measures, now called Shared Policy Goals, which would guide the Montana University System and evaluate progress. Shared Policy Goals are updated and reaffirmed during the interim between legislative sessions. The second initiative was to work with the PEPB Subcommittee to explore new ways for the Montana University System to take a more direct leadership role in the state's economic development. This overall effort, called "Shared Leadership for a Stronger Montana Economy", engaged a broad range of Montanans to prioritize specific initiatives that would help establish a new role for the Montana University System. The work of this group led to the categorization of three primary goals for the University System: 1) access and affordability, 2) workforce and economic development, 3) efficiency and effectiveness.

Recommendations for Updating the Plan

- 1) Change title of document to better reflect the dynamic nature of the plan and on-going updates.
 - Current Title: Montana Board of Regents, 2006-2010 Strategic Plan
 - Suggestion:
 - Montana Board of Regents, Strategic Plan 2008 (always replace with current year)
 - Other ideas??

- 2) In addition to updating the data related to current measures, incorporate new goals and measures approved by PEPB in the Shared Policy Goals.

PEPB additions include:

- Reducing the amount of unmet student need for financial aid as measured by:
 - Cost of attendance – (expected family contribution + average aid award to eligible students)
- Decrease the percentage of recent Montana high school students requiring remedial/developmental coursework in the university system as measured by
 - A joint report from the Board of Regents and the Board of Public Education that addresses the status of joint efforts to align K-12 academic standards with higher education enrollment standards, leading to a shared policy goal and accountability measures between these educational institutions.

- Improve distance and online learning by coordinating online delivery of education across the entire Montana University System in order to facilitate:
 - Increased student enrollment growth in online courses
 - Increased number of online courses and degree programs offered
 - Increased number of workforce development degree programs and certificates offered

 - Improve articulation and transferability among all 2-year and 4- year institutions, including community colleges and tribal colleges as measured by:
 - All undergraduate courses in the Montana University System will go through the process of common course numbering
 - All courses deemed to be significantly similar must possess the same prefix, course number, title and credits; and directly transfer on a one-to-one basis
 - Common course numbering will result in a transparent computerized program that demonstrates transferable courses across the university system
- 3) In preparation for the upcoming legislative session, create a tri-fold flyer to better communicate Montana University System priorities related to the plan.