

DATE: April 15, 2013
TO: Board of Regents
FROM: The University of Montana Western, Chancellor Richard Storey
RE: Campus Report for the May 23-24, 2013 Board of Regents' Meeting

- The University of Montana Western lead all-state higher education institutions with a five-year, 32% increase in Montana first-time, degree-seeking, traditional resident freshmen, and a 29% increase for all Montana resident freshmen based on recently released statistics from the MUS. Montana Western also shared the lead with MSU-Bozeman with a 27% increase in combined resident and non-resident, first-time degree-seeking freshman in the comparison.
- Our Athletics Department recently announced plans to add Frontier Conference and National Intercollegiate Athletics Association (NAIA) competitive cross country teams starting in fall 2015. The addition, which has been thoroughly analyzed and discussed on campus for well over a year, will continue to bolster Bulldog athletics as well as campus enrollment and bring us into compliance with the NAIA requirement for a minimum of six championship sports. It will attract additional dedicated students to campus. Cross country athletes have a well-earned reputation for academic excellence.
- This spring we have held "XDays" to allow students and parents the chance to experience all that Montana Western has to offer. These special events showcase Montana Western and offer attendees the opportunity to tour our campus, explore our degree offerings at a majors fair, talk directly to our professors and learn about our innovative block scheduling program Experience One.
- Nathan Boll, the mathematics major we have mentioned before, will return to NASA this summer before enrolling in a graduate program at the University of Michigan on a full ride scholarship to conduct research in astrophysics.
- Although sophomore Jess Lammi recently volunteered her time and energy helping elderly citizens of a poverty-stricken suburb of Lima, Peru, the elementary education major/literacy minor says she received far more than she gave. "They were so happy to see us," Lammi recalls. "They were grateful for everything we did, as little as it was. As a class, we all discussed how we got more out of it than we could have ever given." Lammi went to Peru as part of Assistant Professor of Education Dana Cotton's Global Education in Latin America class. She was one of nine participants who traveled to Peru in the spring of 2013 as part of the service learning course. In addition to the obvious benefits of cultural exposure for her students, Cotton says her focus was using the opportunity to engage students in service learning work.
- The National association of Biology Teachers has given Kate McElroy-Mattern, Anaconda High School, the Outstanding Biology Teacher award for Montana. Kate received her B.S. in Secondary Education here in 2001 and has taught a combination of life science courses for the past 13 years, the last seven at Anaconda High School.
- Montana Western's remarkable differences were featured in 30 second radio and TV spots that ran during March and April. Experience One, our students and the four Carnegie Professors of the Year were highlighted. Open our website at umwestern.edu and click the link to if you wish to view the spot shown during March Madness.