1. **State and team personnel changes**

Mary Moe retires November 1. The position announcement for Deputy Commissioner for Community College Programs was posted with a deadline of October 20 for applications. Sylvia Moore, Deputy Commissioner for Academic and Student Affairs, is chairing the search committee.

The bid announcement for a communications consultant has been delayed due to changes requested by the General Services Division.

2. **Upcoming activities and events related to the initiative.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 4</td>
<td>In-person meeting of Implementation Team in Helena to discuss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>implementation of regional hub concept.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 15-16</td>
<td>National Productivity Conference in Indianapolis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 18-19</td>
<td>Board of Regents meeting in Missoula</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. **Activities and progress this month, as they relate to the following (taken from the scope of work):**

   a. **The goals for overall project coordination:**

   The Board of Regents devoted significant time at its September meeting to College!Now issues, and took several actions:

   - Adopted the recommendations of the Regents’ Workgroup on Reform and Reinvention contained in *Guiding Principles for Planning* and *Success Agenda*. The *Success Agenda* is largely the College!Now work plan, including institutional role differentiation, performance-based funding, data integration, and communication and advocacy, among other elements.

   - Approved dual enrollment operational guidelines, following a panel presentation by stakeholders commending the (long and arduous, but worthwhile) process to arrive at the final product.

   - Reviewed Montana’s first *Access to Success* report of performance on statewide longitudinal measures. Previewed MUS Transfer Core, now called the *Choices that Count* Pathways Certificate Program. Received summaries of Governor’s Forum on Adult Credentialing and progress on strategies and deliverables for College!Now. Bade farewell to Mary and pledged to continue the progress she has been instrumental in achieving.
b. The goals for communications and engagement:

Commissioner Stearns conducted 17 community listening sessions across the state, despite getting the flu in the middle of the 5-week tour. Attendance was generally good, but varied with location and time of day. (Attendance in the mornings was lighter than for afternoon sessions, as expected.) All but one of the sessions had a regent present. Most of the visits generated robust discussions about two-year education. The tour has resulted in several news articles and editorials. David Hall is collecting notes and feedback cards from the sessions. He will compile these and share them with Anne Clarke, who will help summarize and analyze the data.

The RFP for communications services has been delayed, as noted in #1 above.

c. The goals for bringing the community college mission to all two-year campuses, including activities of the four work groups:

The next steps identified at the September Board of Regents meeting are to roll out the rebranded Colleges of Technology in July 2011, establish productive partnerships with ABLE providers, and propose innovations in developmental education.

i. Developmental

David attended the Education Commission of the States conference on *Getting Past Go: Using Policy to Improve Developmental Education and College Success* to further explore how Bruce Vandal’s model could apply to Montana and identify developmental education contacts in other states.

ii. Adult-friendly

John Garic, John Cech, David Hall, and Anne Clark attended WICHE’s Non-Traditional No More conference in Denver September 15-16. The majority of the conference addressed the “ready adult” population—those who have not completed college degrees, but come close to having enough credits to qualify. Highlights included a presentation by the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) on a Virtual Prior Learning Assessment Center that is under development; a presentation by Acxiom Corporation, a data mining group that can track down students who completed some college without earning degrees; and presentations on models from Louisiana, Kentucky, and Nevada for serving ready adults.

Next steps include piloting an ALFI (Adult-Learning-Friendly Institution) assessment on 2-3 campuses, and issuing an RFP for a pilot on promising models of adult-friendly services.

iii. Adult basic literacy education (ABLE)

See i. above. Model under consideration addresses both ABLE and developmental education.
iv. Workforce responsiveness

David will replace Mary on various SWIB committees as the representative from OCHE. See also discussion of adult-friendly services, above, and regional hubs, below.

d. The goals for making two-year colleges regional hubs:

The regional hubs concept was presented at the September Regents meeting as an information item. Mary distributed a proposed plan to the implementation team on October 11 for feedback. The team requested additional discussion on the regional boundaries, proposed rules, and fiscal implications, and will meet November 4 with additional representatives from two-year colleges, including tribal colleges, to resume the discussion. This may be followed by a longer meeting in December to finalize recommendations to the Commissioner.

...Including activities of the two work groups:

i. High School/College transitions

Dual enrollment guidelines were adopted at the September Board of Regents meeting as noted in 3.a. Next steps include defining regions for the regional hubs (see above), and establishing statewide funding and tuition models for dual enrollment. Mick Robinson is coordinating discussions on funding and pricing.

The emphasis of Perkins and Tech Prep next year will be the development of CTE Programs of Study, which makes the dual enrollment guidelines particularly timely. Aligned related instruction (guidelines under development) will be incorporated into the programs of study.

ii. Curriculum coordination and alignment

The regents got a preview of the Choices that Count Pathway Certificate, and will see a first pass in November. Once the certificate requirements are finalized, campus pilots will be enlisted.

e. The goals for technology infrastructure, including activities of the two work groups:

i. Technology for efficiency

Banner implementation at Miles and Dawson community colleges, and integration for MUS campuses, remain on schedule for going live spring 2011. Tyler Trevor is leading the effort to develop system-wide data standards for critical data elements.

ii. Virtual community college

At the Montana Digital Academy meeting in August, the MTDA board approved a pilot for Fall 2010 dual enrollment through two 2-year colleges:

UM Missoula COT (concurrent enrollment/online digital classroom)
  ▪ Pre-Calculus
MSU GF COT (early college model)

- Introduction to Anthropology
- Montana’s American Indians
- Introduction to Psychology
- College Writing I (requires placement scores)

It’s hoped that other two-year campuses will add offerings for spring semester. The MDTA board wants consistently licensed faculty (approved by the college and has K-12 licensure) to teach dual credit courses. In-service training is available for college faculty wishing to teach in this setting.

Tom Gibson, Director of e-Learning Business Development at OCHE, will take over this effort upon Mary’s retirement.

On a related note, the annual statewide Wheeler Center conference on 21st Century Education emphasized the opportunity (and imperative) to create extraordinary learning environments through existing technology and media. Presenters highlighted the MTDA and MSU’s Extended University. The center director summarized, “Montana has the tools to deliver educational opportunities to every individual in Montana in a manner that is accessible, compatible and transferable, whether the student resides in a rural or urban community, whether the student is young or old, rich or poor. Our challenge is to deliver these educational opportunities in a manner that creates a learning environment rich in form, content, and 21st century skill development.” The conference was cosponsored by College!Now, and several state advisory team members served as presenters.

f. The goals for outcomes-based funding:

Mick Robinson, Associate Commissioner for Administration and Fiscal Affairs, continues to work through the model with campus fiscal officers, assisted by Dennis Jones of NCHEMS.