



The University of Montana-Helena
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

DATE: October 15, 2010
TO: Board of Regents
FROM: Daniel J. Bingham, PhD
Dean/CEO
UM-Helena College of Technology
RE: Campus Update Report for the November 2010 Board of Regents' Meeting

- Jean Bailey, Ph.D. has been offered and accepted the position of General Education and Business Technology Division Chair. Her official start date will be on or before December 1st. We are anticipating a start date in mid-November 2010
- Enrollment Growth at UM-Helena Continues - for a fourth consecutive fall term, the college has achieved record breaking enrollment with a headcount of 1,500 students. FTE also exceeded 1,000 for the first time (1,067 FTE) as a more recent trend in the majority of students enrolling full-time also continues. The college received 819 applications for admission, down slightly from last fall but well ahead the average number of 600 applications received prior to fall 2009.
- MUS Student Insurance Plan – In the first semester as a member of the Montana University System Student Insurance Plan (MUSSIP) consortium, 270 UM-Helena students purchased the plan offered through Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Montana representing a participation rate of approximately 20% of those eligible students registered for four or more credits.
- Financial Aid – To date, UM-Helena has processed 1,645 applications for federal student aid (FAFSA) for the 2010-2011 academic year surpassing the total number of applications received for the entire 2009-2010 academic year. The college is on track to also surpass the \$8 million in financial aid awarded last year. In the past three years the amount of aid awarded to students has increased by 116%.
- Advising & Retention – This fall 547 students participated in UM-Helena's First Semester Advising program which consists of small group and individualized sessions led by staff advisors and faculty designed to facilitate student success by introducing students to the registration process, academic program requirements and campus resources. 91% of all new and readmitting students attended a session.
- Veterans & Disabled Students – This fall 98 students are receiving veteran's benefits, and 88 students are registered with the Office of Disability Services to receive accommodations representing 24% and 33% increases over the numbers of students served in fall of 2009.
- SENSE Survey. UM-Helena participated in the Survey of Entering Student Engagement (SENSE) for the first time this fall. The survey, administrated by the Center for Community College Student Engagement at the University of Texas, is designed to provide a clear picture of both student behaviors in the earliest weeks of college and the institutional practices that affect students during that critical time. The survey results will be useful in improving course completion rates and the rate at which students persist beyond the first term of enrollment.

- Computer Aided Manufacturing instructor, Tom Jungst, received a grant award from Gibbs Cam Software valued at approximately \$700,000.
- UM-Helena purchased its first Hybrid vehicle for training purposes in the Automotive Technology Program.
- Internally approved an AA with a program of study in Interior Space Planning and Design. Articulations for 2+2 degrees are in progress with Washington State University and University of Idaho