

ITEM 148-103-R0910

Establishment of operational guidelines for dual enrollment and other secondary-postsecondary credit opportunities through the Montana University System

THAT

The Board of Regents approve the operational guidelines presented in Attachment _____

EXPLANATION

A major strategy of the COLLEGE!NOW Initiative is the development of a comprehensive, coordinated approach to helping Montana high school students make a focused, facilitated transition from high school to college. Especially important to such a transition are dual enrollment and other secondary-postsecondary learning opportunities (PSCOs). Although PSCOs have been available in varying forms in some Montana communities for years, Montana has yet to establish the comprehensive, coordinated state-level approach that ensures all Montana high school students have access to affordable, college-comparable, and consistently recognized opportunities for students to earn college credit while in high school. The proposed operational guidelines represent the collaborative effort of Montana's K-12 and higher education sectors to provide that assurance.

The operational guidelines promote access by designating the MUS two-year degree-granting campuses as the "regional hubs" for dual enrollment, reaching out to high schools in their area to create dual enrollment opportunities. The guidelines address college-comparability in curriculum, instruction, and assessment by (a) promoting "early college" courses on campus and online and by (b) providing nationally recognized standards for "concurrent enrollment" courses offered in Montana's high schools. College-comparability in all dual enrollment models, as well as consistent approaches by the campuses for recognition of other secondary-postsecondary credit opportunities (e.g., Advanced Placement) provides the foundation for the non-duplicative, articulated programs of study that promote college-readiness and expedite degree completion.

With the establishment of the guidelines as the operational model, two additional tasks will be undertaken with the goal of bringing proposals to the Board of Regents in November 2010: (a) the regions of service for the "regional hubs" and (b) a tuition and funding model that ensures affordable options for Montana high school students while promoting the productivity goals of COLLEGE!NOW.

ATTACHMENTS

Operational Guidelines