

University of Montana Western

September 2011 campus report to the Montana Board of Regents

Experience One, which includes block scheduling and experiential learning, is a resounding success. The campus reinvented itself and gained local, regional and national recognition for the achievements. U.S. News & World Report recently listed us second in the nation among colleges offering small classes for a value. This acknowledges both the quality and affordability of a Montana Western degree.

The Renovation of Main Hall and the Beier Auditorium is a major event in the history of the campus. Restoring and improving this landmark building will promote even greater learning by students and give the campus and community places to learn, gather, and enjoy the arts. We also remodeled and renovated other important buildings on campus and will also renovate the art annex (formerly College Motors) next fall.

We have increased study abroad programs, internships, undergraduate research and productivity, and, as a result, student success.

The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities just reaffirmed our accreditation on the basis of the spring 2011 evaluation.

For the first time in recorded history we had a first team NAIA all-American in men's basketball. Brandon Brown, an outstanding business major, was also the Frontier Conference player of the year. Our basketball team made the national tournament for the second year in a row.

We have enjoyed outstanding fundraising successes by the UMW Foundation. For example, the Foundation worked with the community on a successful "Re-Seat the Beier" campaign.

Montana Western students once again left their mark on two recent science gatherings, taking home two first-place awards at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and Montana Space Grant Consortium meeting held at Montana State University as well as winning an award at the Montana Academy of Sciences annual meeting at Montana Tech.

The Southwest Montana Equine Center opened this fall and our natural horsemanship students are taking their skills classes at this modern, close facility. The Center was constructed and is managed by a non-profit group of benefactors.