

LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

Board of Regents' Strategic Initiatives

Spring 2012

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Workforce Development and Two-year Education

Description:

Continue investments in two-year education to help ensure low cost education opportunities and address workforce demands in Montana.

Rationale:

- 1) Less than 30% of the students in the MUS enroll in two-year colleges – the national average is over 50%.
- 2) Over the past ten years, two-year education in Montana has grown faster than any other sector of higher education; COTs alone have grown from 3,800 to over 8,800 students (125% increase, +5,000 students).
- 3) The CollegeNow! initiative has laid the foundation for developing a comprehensive approach to two-year education: workforce development, transfer education, dual enrollment for high school students, opportunities for non-traditional students, and distance learning.

Ideas/Concepts/Funding:

- Capital projects
- Program and equipment funding
- Comprehensive mission expansion

MUS Strategic Plan:

Goal #2 Workforce & Economic Development

Workforce Development: *Increase responsiveness to workforce development needs by expanding and developing programs in high demand fields in the state*

http://www.mus.edu/data/StratPlan/10_11_Goal_2_Workforce_Development_2011.pdf

Two-year Education: *Increase postsecondary enrollment of traditional and non-traditional students through expanded outreach programs, evening/weekend programs, and 2-year programs*

http://www.mus.edu/data/StratPlan/8_Goal_1_Two_Year_Education_2012.pdf