

The University of Montana Western

September 2014 campus report to the Board of Regents (source: the UMW website)

Pioneer Federal Savings and Loan in Dillon announced a \$100,000 pledge to the Montana Western Legacy Campaign. The pledge will be paid to the university over the course of the next five years and be used toward the construction of the Pioneer Federal Savings and Loan Amphitheater within the Legacy Plaza. The Legacy Plaza will be at the foot of Main Hall. In addition to the construction of the plaza, the Legacy Campaign will fund the final steps in the renovation of Main Hall and create a Model Classroom to house the Rural Fridays program and other education classes. The S & L donation is one of the largest Montana Western has ever received for such a project. Pioneer Federal was also a generous donor to the renovation of Beier Auditorium on the UMW campus. Pioneer Federal donated \$50,000 dollars to re-seat the auditorium in 2011. “The Montana Western Foundation is extremely grateful for the support Pioneer Federal Savings and Loan has given over the years,” says UMW Foundation Director Roxanne Engellant. “This contribution to legacy plaza will benefit the UMW campus as well as the Dillon community. “ Over the years, Pioneer Federal Savings and Loan has been a dedicated supporter of Montana Western and donated to numerous campaigns and programs. “We want to see our community succeed,” says bank president Tom Welch. “The university is a big part of our community, and we have a commitment to supporting it anyway we can.” In order to start these projects and access \$4 million designated by the Montana Legislature, Montana Western needed to raise \$500,000. Thanks to the Pioneer Federal donation and other donations and grants, Montana Western is ready to move ahead with the project. “We are thrilled with our progress to raise the needed funds, and the campus is looking forward to beginning this new, exciting chapter for Montana Western,” said retiring Chancellor Richard Storey.

UMW’s Russ Richardson received the Athletic Trainer Service Award from the National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA). In addition, Richardson earned the Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer from NATA. His peers honored Richardson’s exceptional contributions to the profession of athletic training through personal sacrifice. On top of the two awards from NATA, Richardson was inducted into the Washington State Athletic Trainers Association (WSATA) Hall of Fame. That recognition was for outstanding professionalism, dedication, and contributions to the WSATA over nearly 30 years of service. “I am incredibly honored and humbled by the recognitions that I received this year,” said Richardson. “In many ways, it is overwhelming to have your peers honor you in these very special ways.” Richardson currently serves as the chair for the NATA’s Executive Committee for Education.

A student from the UMW recently received the Northwest American College of Sports Medicine Outstanding Undergraduate Award. Garrett Long, from Bozeman, Mont., was presented with his award at the 2014 Northwest American College of Sports Medicine Conference in Wenatchee, Wash. Long received the award for his research on predicting the caliber of performance and on-field contribution of NAIA football players. This fall, Garrett will be a senior at UMW working towards his bachelor’s degree in human and health performance.

Rebecca Petersen is a living testament to the proud tradition of teaching educators at Montana Western; both her grandparents graduated with education degrees from this institution. Today, Rebecca is in pursuit of an education degree of her own. Rebecca is from Alberton, Mont. She came to Montana Western in 2008 and is an elementary education major. She plans to teach kindergarten through third grades.