



Date: October 9, 2015

To: Board of Regents

From: Daniel J. Bingham, Ph.D.
Dean/CEO, Helena College University of Montana

Subject: Campus Report for November 19-20, 2015, Board of Regents Meeting

- Helena College 2015 RN graduates have a 100% NCLEX pass rate, including the first Summer Cohort graduates.
- New TAACCCT equipment purchased and received this quarter included upgraded band saw for welding. Total student contacts now number approximately 425+. Business contacts remained steady for the quarter at 53. Fifteen students from the Fall 2015 cohort received scholarships from the Greg Gianforte Family Foundation, bringing the total for the grant to 41. Grant participant and impacted numbers at the end of the quarter are as follows: Welding-81; Diesel-90; Machining-55; NCRC-49; Math-528.
- Financial Aid Staff will be attending the Rocky Mountain Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (RMASFAA) Conference and the National Scholarship Providers Association (NSPA) Conference next week. The total amount disbursed to date is \$2.1 million. Helena College expects another \$1 million at the end of October with the second loan disbursement of the term.
- Helena College received the Starfish 360 Award, an award determined experts in academia non-related to Starfish or Hobsons with over 50 entries. Three recipients were awarded based on the institutions demonstrated successes in student and institutional performance.
- Helena College took part in a National Moment of Silence in honor of the victims of the shooting at Umpqua Community College on Thursday, October 8, 2015, at 12:00 PM.
- On Saturday, October 10, Helena College and The Boeing Company sponsored Women in Gear at the Airport Campus. Women in Gear is an annual opportunity for young women 8th grade and up to experience hands-on demonstrations and activities in seven trades programs offered at Helena College and to hear a panel of successful women working in these high-skills trades.
- Helena College, with the help of Missoula's multi-campus purchasing power, has upgraded the campus' fiber link to 10 Gigabits per second from a 100 Megabit per second. This is easily a 10,000 percent increase in available bandwidth to help with on-line research and data transfer to the internet and databases housed on the UM campus. Helena College is also currently in negotiations with providers in the Helena area for a higher speed connection to our Airport Campus from the main Donaldson Campus.

- International Fire Service Accreditation Congress visited Helena College October 20-22 to evaluate the College's candidacy for accreditation. A distinguished team of international experts met with faculty, staff, and administrators from Helena College.
- Helena College is preparing to offer for the Spring 2016 semester a competency-based education Certificate of Applied Science in Computer Software Applications. This certificate was approved by BOR in September, 2015.
- Helena College leaders and faculty are meeting with local employers in technology and health care to develop internship agreements to increase community-based learning by Helena College students.
- Twelve high school teachers and counselors worked with Helena College nursing faculty and students to develop five pathways in health science and allied health. About 50 area high school and ABE students heard a panel of eight employers from the healthcare fields at Helena College on October 2 as part of Big Sky Pathways.
- Helena College has converted a small conference room into two testing rooms for accommodated testing for students. This space will allow for the accommodation of students with special requirements for testing while allowing for the monitoring of the testing activity.
- Based on current events both nationally and locally, the Helena College Safety committee is reviewing our campus protocols for lockdown situations and the securing of unoccupied classroom and lab spaces.
- The new Bookstore facility that was designed by students and involved students in the construction process opened this fall to much rejoicing from the students at the Airport Campus. Along with the normal books and classroom supplies, the Bookstore is providing grab and go food for the students.