

THE UNIVERSITY *of* MONTANA WESTERN

DATE: Wednesday, June 1, 2016
TO: Montana Board of Regents
FROM: Beth Weatherby, chancellor
SUBJECT: Campus Report for the July 2016 Board of Regents meeting

New faces at Montana Western.

DEB HEDEEN WILL ASSUME provost duties in July. Hedeem comes from Idaho State University (ISU) where she spent the past 10 years as the school of education dean. Hedeem was also associate dean of the education college and assistant dean of teacher education at ISU. She earned a Ph.D. in special education from Syracuse University. Hedeem succeeds INTERIM PROVOST SYLVIA MOORE who has served in the position since July 2015.

RUSS RICHARDSON HAS BEEN NAMED athletic director at Montana Western. Richardson has served as the head athletic trainer and associate professor at UMW since 2012. He previously was director of athletic training at Whitworth University for 23 years. Richardson received a doctorate from Washington State University.

UMW welcomes NEW FACULTY MEMBERS REBEKAH LEVINE, SPRUCE SHOENEMANN AND LAURA YOUNG. Levine, who joins the environmental sciences department as assistant professor, received her Ph.D. from the University of New Mexico and most recently served as lead scientist and co-manager for Headwater Restoration Under Climate Change with the Nature Conservancy in Montana. Shoenemann joins the environmental science department as an assistant professor. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Washington. Young earned a Ph.D. from the University of Utah. She joins the health and human performance department as an assistant professor.

UMW's Sheila Roberts named emeritus professor.

The Montana Board of Regents conferred the distinguished title of professor emeritus on long time University of Montana Western PROFESSOR SHEILA ROBERTS. Roberts' colleagues nominated her for the lifetime recognition which was approved at the last regular Board of Regents meeting in May. The emeritus designation was for her work in environmental sciences. Roberts retired at the end of this school year, completing 21 years of service to the university.

Commencement sets records again.

UMW awarded a RECORD 481 DEGREES TO 395 STUDENTS at commencement ceremonies Saturday, May 7. This is the second year in a row that the university has broken the record for degrees awarded. This year's record follows the admission of the university's largest class of first time students in fall 2015. Alumnus Nathan Boll delivered the commencement address telling the graduates how Experience One prepared him for success. Boll graduated from UMW in 2013 and in that short time has worked as Mirzayan Graduate Fellow to the Space Studies Board at the National Academy of Sciences. He working on his Ph.D. from University of Michigan while taking classes at George Washington University toward a second master's degree in international science and technology policy.

(more)

Ground broken for \$2 million Montana Center for Horsemanship area.

Gov. Steve Bullock and Commissioner of Higher Education Clayton Christian helped break ground for a \$2 million arena addition to the Montana Center for Horsemanship (MCH) on May 4. Also participating were Chancellor Beth Weatherby, MCH founder and board member William Kriegel, university officials, faculty, students and community members.

The \$2 million expansion includes plans for an indoor arena and 48 additional pens at the center. Montana Western partners with MCH to offer the nation's only four-year natural horsemanship degree.

Legacy Plaza construction is underway.

University and foundation officials, community members and state representatives recently broke ground for Montana Western's new Legacy Plaza. The plaza will be paved with personalized bricks and will include an amphitheater donated by Pioneer Federal Savings & Loan. Located at the foot of the university's iconic Main Hall, Legacy Plaza is one part of the overall Legacy Campaign which includes renovation and restoration of Main Hall. Thanks to the generosity of the DENNIS & PHYLLIS WASHINGTON FOUNDATION, the university is also creating a model classroom in Mail Hall's historic library integrating the latest in technology and instructional practices. Legacy Plaza construction is expected to last through the summer.

Geology camps choose Montana Western

Since the mid 1960s geology programs from across the country have traveled to Montana Western to conduct their field camps. Southwestern Montana is one of the best places in the country to view exposed and diverse geologic features. Most camps last from five to six weeks with between 20 and 30 camps each year including more than 500 students and staff.

This year's institutions include:

Bates College
Texas A&M
University of Iowa
University of Arkansas
University of Oklahoma
South Dakota School of Mines
Cal State Fullerton
Northeastern Illinois University
Georgia State University
Montclair State University
West Virginia University
Salem State University
University of Washington
University of Oregon
Eastern Washington University
University of Houston
St. Anne's College (Oxford Mapping)
University of Memphis
Millsaps College