



Date: January 25, 2016

To: Board of Regents

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

Subject: Campus Report for March 3-4, 2016, Board of Regents Meeting

- As of January 1, 2016, Dr. John Hartman is the Chair of the Montana Section of the American Chemical Society. The American Chemical Society (ACS) is the world's largest scientific society and one of the world's leading sources of authoritative scientific information. A nonprofit organization, chartered by Congress, ACS is at the forefront of the evolving worldwide chemistry enterprise and the premier professional home for chemists, chemical engineers and related professions around the globe. ACS has 185 local sections (chapters) throughout the United States. Local sections allow members to connect with other chemists and chemical engineers in their geographic area, participate in programs near their homes that can enhance their professional development, and contribute to the public's understanding of chemistry in their communities. ACS regional meetings are hosted by local sections in various geographic regions across the United States, and Helena College will be hosting a regional meeting.

The state of Montana is an ACS section unto itself and is comprised of 280 members from industry and academia throughout the state. The Montana Section membership meets twice each year (once the Fall and once in the Spring) in gatherings that include undergraduate and graduate student research presentations, keynote speakers, awards presentations, and Executive Board meetings for the governance of the Section and its role at the National level. Last year the Montana Section was awarded the prestigious ChemLuminary Award by the National ACS for its innovative Small Business Symposium at the Northwest Regional Meeting which was held in Missoula in 2014.

- Of the cohort of Licensed Practical Nursing graduates who finished their program in December, 2015, everyone who has taken the NCLEX exam to be certified as a Practical Nurse has passed that national exam. That continues Helena College's tradition of its graduates achieving a 100% NCLEX pass rate.
- General Education Writing Instructor, Ben Nickol, has published a new book of stories titled *Where the Wind Can Find It* (<http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B018FNC6BE/>). He is due to publish another book in the summer of 2016 titled *Adherence* (<http://www.amazon.com/dp/1937402959/>).
- Helena College Airport Campus will be hosting the Montana Super Tech Competition on April 30, 2016. People within the diesel industry compete with hands-on competitions and written tests;

college students are invited to compete. Last year, Helena College students won first, second, and third place in the college division. This competition is held state-wide, and the winners move on to a nation-wide competition.

- The Registrar's Office awarded 55 degrees/certificates for the fall 2015 semester. This is up 3% from fall 2014 semester.
- Academics and Student Affairs partnered and implemented a DACUM process to evaluate Student Advising. Facilitated by Robyn Kiesling, General Education Division chair, eight faculty and staff spent two days analyzing and creating recommendations for improved advising practices.
- Recognizing all employees must take a vested interest in the success of our students, the Academic Dean and Student Affairs Dean facilitated an all-campus workshop to discuss innovative activities to engage and retain students through to completion. From these two activities, all advisors met prior to the start of the spring term for a half day program designed to strengthen their advising skills.
- The Student Support Center implement three New Student Orientation sessions for both new and returning students. In an effort to increase student participation at the event, new sessions were implemented and broadened to include faculty participation.
- TAACCCT 3 staff are finalizing Math 111T class for OER requirements, and the TAACCCT 3 Coordinator has finalized and posted developmental math presentation to skillscommon.org and distributed a quarterly newsletter. Helena College is also creating a CDL training module in partnership with local employers with the support of TAACCCT 3.
- Faculty have voted to adjust graduation requirements, in accordance with MUS core requirements, to make it more likely for students to finish their associate degrees by removing unnecessary barriers to completion.
- Big Sky Pathways Coordinator and other college officials participated in an open house at Helena High School to promote educational opportunities provided by the college. Comprehensive pathways information was collected in a manual and distributed to the two Helena high schools for advising purposes.