



**Date:** April 13, 2016

**To:** Board of Regents

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

**Subject:** Campus Report for May 19-20, 2016, Board of Regents Meeting

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- Helena College hosted 200 Helena Middle School students in a day of hands on learning. Activities included observing machining and welding demonstrations, watching gummi bears explode, and the proper use of a fire extinguisher.
- Partnering with Bryant Elementary School, across the street from the College. Provides a venue for Helena College student projects, while Bryant students receive nutrition and health (physical, dental) screenings, volunteer support for a community garden project, etc. One goal is to increase student aspirations to attend college, and another is to engage the parents of Bryant students to return to college themselves.
- On March 21-22, 600 high school students attended the HOSA conference in Missoula for two days of intense competition. The Helena College Nursing Director attended the Board of Directors meeting for the organization and also participated as a judge in various events.
- On April 13, the Montana Board of Nursing will have their quarterly meeting where all of the two-year nursing programs will present their implementation plans for the new stand-alone PN program and the new stand-alone RN program. Helena College will be implementing both programs and will be seeking approval from the Board of Nursing at that time.
- Helena College has 18 veteran students planning to graduate on May 7 and 10 students assisted by Disability Resources.
- Student Affairs partnered with Helena Youth Connection, St. Peter's Hospital, and Lewis and Clark Public Health to host a Town Meeting on Underage Drinking. A panel of experts served as speakers to a very accepting and well-attended community audience.
- To help encourage students to complete what they started, Student Affairs sponsored a "Registration Celebration" during the week of April 4-8. Members of student affairs were available on both campuses to answer advising, registration, and financial aid questions. Students appreciated the assistance (and the prizes).
- The Registrar's Office has currently processed 179 graduation applications for the spring 2016 semester. This is up 4% from the spring of 2015.
- The Helena College Career Services Office, Student Support Center, and Nursing Department are partnered to host the semi-annual LPN/ RN Network Nursing Fair to include 18 healthcare vendors,

16 LPN students, and 16 RN students that will graduate May 7th. The fair took place April 12, 2016, from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at Helena College.

- Financial Aid Administrators, HS Counselors, Admissions, Registrars, and TRiO (including Gear UP and Talent Search) have all been meeting in regards to Prior-Prior Year FAFSA. This is a rather significant issue that will ultimately be in the best interest of students, but has quite a few logistical hurdles that need to be addressed prior to the implementation on October 1, 2016, for the 2017-2018 academic year.
  - The Directors of Financial Aid have agreed upon a priority deadline date of December 1st. This is in keeping with the two months that is currently in place for the 2016-2017 academic year.
  - Financial Aid Directors will be working in 3 academic years with this implementation and will be a bit overwhelmed with other federal reports due at this time. However, the FAAs understand this will assist students with more time to potentially seek out other payment alternatives, as well as shop around at more institutions.
- Student Employment Week is going on now ending with a celebration on Friday and announcing the Student Employee of the Year.
- Helena College's new Academic Coach completed several courses and received certification as an Academic Coach through the National Tutoring Association.
- A representative from the Montana Independent Living Project toured the campus as a part of a grant information collection process and gave high praise to Helena College for accessibility to individuals with disabilities in all areas.
- Helena College now has an Elementary Education articulation agreement signed with the University of Montana. The agreement will allow Helena College students to complete the first two years at Helena College, earn an AS, and then stay in Helena to complete the remaining two years. Courses will be offered online and in streaming formats.
- Helena College hosted the 4th Annual Student Research Day for Two-Year Colleges. There were 9 schools in attendance with 21 student research presentations. Presentations included topics such as space station deployment, oil seed press optimization, drug and alcohol use in relation to suicide ideation and attempts in Montana adolescents, and the correlation between the increase of Autism and the amount of cell towers. Governor Steve Bullock was the keynote speaker.
- Helena College Math Instructor Joyce Walborn participated in the nationwide discussion about adding math co-requisite courses to help students' complete college level math courses. She has also been asked to serve on a state-wide working group to create a college level math course for nursing students.
- Helena College's Study Abroad will take both credit and non-credit students to study the culture and architecture of Prague, Salzburg, Vienna, and Budapest in May 2016.
- Five Interior Space Planning and Design students will be travelling to Chicago Neocon, an architectural/design conference. The students held fundraisers to raise the necessary funds to attend.