



DATE: Wednesday, October 24, 2018
TO: Montana Board of Regents
FROM: Beth Weatherby, Chancellor
SUBJECT: Campus Report for the November 2018 Board of Regents Meeting

Montana Western and Blackfeet Community College Receive \$1.4 Million Grant

The University of Montana Western and Blackfeet Community College have been awarded a \$1.4 million-dollar Indian Education Professional Development grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

Indigenous teacher candidates on the Blackfeet Reservation will be provided support to complete their degrees and certifications in the areas of elementary education, secondary education, and special education as part of the recently awarded grant for project collaborators Vikki Howard from Montana Western and Dee Hoyt and Cheryl Madman from Blackfeet Community College.

The five-year Indigenous Centered Education Project is designed to increase the number of Indigenous educators on the Blackfeet Reservation.

Natural Horsemanship Program Offers International Opportunities

Robert Chesterfield, Natural Horsemanship instructor, taught students from France at La Cense Montana in Dillon, Mont. while Eric Hoffmann and Ava Duncan, also Natural Horsemanship instructors, spent part of their summers teaching in Europe.

Duncan worked with horses and students at Haras de la Cense in France, while Hoffmann, with Natural Horsemanship students

Lorrie Ann Smith and Tess Turk, taught horsemanship courses in Germany.

The La Cense Method is a progressive, step-by-step process that blends the best of traditional horsemanship training with the art of training and riding horses—all in a manner that works with a horse's behavior, instincts, and personality.

Taking a positive and respectful approach, the La Cense Method gradually builds trust, and frees the horses to be confident in all they are asked to perform.

The University of Montana Western Ranked among the Best Colleges

The University of Montana Western was recently ranked among the "Best Colleges" by U.S. News & World Report and was also ranked in the top five "Best Colleges in Montana for 2018" by Best Colleges.

The U.S. News & World Report rankings include #9 in Best Regional Colleges, #4 in Top Public Schools and #7 in Best Colleges for Veterans. One of the most unique aspects of Montana Western is the Experience One program, an innovative scheduling system that allows students to focus on a single course at a time.

Montana Western Ranked by Money Magazine

The University of Montana Western was recently ranked among the "Best Colleges in America" by Money Magazine. The ranking is based on factors including educational quality,

affordability, and alumni financial success. The other Montana colleges in the ranking are Montana State University and Carroll College.

According to the Money Magazine website, the publication drew “on the research and advice of dozens of the nation’s top experts on education quality, financing, and value to develop a uniquely practical analysis of more than 700 of the nation’s best-performing colleges.”

Montana Western Hosts Education Conference on High Impact Practices

The University of Montana Western hosted the “Taking Student Success to Scale: High Impact Practices” Southwest Montana Regional Conference on October 18, 2018.

High-impact practices (HIPs) were first described in 2008 by educational researchers, George Kuh and Ken O’Donnell, as proven strategies to increase student success. Montana Western serves as a natural host for the conference due to its unique approach to classroom scheduling and immersive learning known as Experience One.

“Experience One is one example of the successful strategies that NASH is interested in promoting at a national scale to increase participation in high impact practices,” said Montana Western’s Dean of Outreach and conference coordinator, Anneliese Ripley, Ed.D.

UMW Welcomes Youth Serve Scholarship Recipients

As members of the incoming fall 2018 class, Montana Western welcomed seven “Youth Serve Montana” Scholarship recipients.

This scholarship is made possible through a partnership between Montana Campus Compact, the Governor’s Office of Community Service and Reach Higher Montana. This

scholarship annually honors 100 incoming freshman who have been exemplary community volunteers during their high school careers in Montana.

Each student completed at least 100 hours of service. The students are Kimberlee Ollinger (Browning), Brenna Combs (Conrad), Avery Harris (Fairfield), Kayla Underwood (Great Falls), Ian McCants (Shelby), Payton Frieids (Trout Creek), and Brooke Wiltbank (Hamilton).

Shakespeare in the Parks Performance Held at UMW

Montana Shakespeare in the Parks performed Shakespeare’s tragedy “Othello” on Aug. 29 on the University of Montana Western’s Legacy Plaza.

The free performance was sponsored by the University of Montana Western’s School of Outreach, Foundation and Student Affairs along with the Southwest Montana Arts Council.

Montana Shakespeare in the Parks has brought high-quality live theatrical productions to small communities in Montana for over 45 years.

Chamique Holdsclaw Shares Her Story on Mental Health and Basketball

Chamique Holdsclaw, mental health activist and WNBA vet spoke at the Big Sky Behavioral Health Summit on Sept. 13, 2018 at the University of Montana Western.

The conference is designed for mental health providers, primary care providers, educators, law enforcement officials, and other community stakeholders.

Holdsclaw focused on approaches to addressing mental health, her success in basketball, and the importance of talking to someone as an outlet.

During her stay in Dillon, she spoke to the community, students, faculty and staff of Montana Western, the Montana Youth Challenge Academy, and schools in Ennis, Sheridan, and Dillon, Mont.

"J.D. and Jake share M.J.'s passion to teach, coach, and make a difference in the lives of our youth," said Kathy Simkins, M.J.'s mother.

Beaverhead Marathon Establishes Scholarship at Montana Western

Founders of the Beaverhead Marathon Cory Birkenbuel, Dylan Zitzer and Casey Parrott have established a new scholarship through the Montana Western Foundation for Cross Country student athletes that will be awarded for the first time in spring 2019.

The first event was held in May 2018, which featured a full and half marathon with over 80 people running in this first race.

The route for the marathon invited participants to explore the beauty and history of Beaverhead County continuing along the Beaverhead River and Barretts Park, and ended in downtown Dillon.

Montana Western Foundation Announces the Forever M.J. #18 Scholarship

Mark James Simkins Jr., also known as M.J., was passionate about his family, faith, football, and friends.

His family endowed a scholarship at the University of Montana Western where his legacy will be remembered forever.

M.J. was active in his community, excelled academically, and was a leader on and off the football field.

The Forever M.J. #18 Scholarship was awarded for the first time this spring to J.D. Ferris and Jake McElroy for the 2018-19 academic year.