



DATE: Wednesday, August 22, 2018  
TO: Montana Board of Regents  
FROM: Beth Weatherby, Chancellor  
SUBJECT: Campus Report for the September 2018 Board of Regents Meeting

### **Director of University Communications Appointment Announced**

The University of Montana Western announced the appointment of Matt Raffety to the position of Director of University Communications.

"Matt Raffety is a great representative for the university," said Chancellor Beth Weatherby. "In just one year, he has developed a deep understanding of the power of Experience One. His enthusiastic support of the accomplishments of our faculty, students and staff is contagious."

"I'm honored to have the opportunity to share the success stories of our students, faculty, staff, and alumni with the community, state and across the country," said Mr. Raffety. "I'm continually amazed at the accomplishments of the students here at Montana Western."

### **Community Celebrates at Retirement Reception for Susan Briggs**

Susan Briggs, Vice Chancellor of Administration and Finance, retired at the end of June after 20 years of excellent service to the University of Montana Western.

Before coming to Montana Western, Briggs served for 13 years at the University of Montana. Briggs served as the Vice Chancellor of Administration, Finance and Student Affairs and has been instrumental in securing funding for several construction and renovation projects at UMW as well as her involvement in bringing the Montana Youth Challenge Academy to campus.

A community celebration of her career was held on June 25, 2018 in the Model Classroom in Main Hall.

September Report 2018

### **Vice Chancellor of Administration and Finance Appointment Announced**

The University of Montana Western announced the appointment of Michael Reid to the position of Vice Chancellor of Administration and Finance.

Mr. Reid has held similar positions at various institutions including the University of Montana, and most recently served as Vice President for Administration and Finance at Sierra Nevada College. He supervised several campus departments including Human Resources, Business Services, Facilities, Financial Aid, and Information Technology.

"Mike Reid is a perfect fit for the University of Montana Western. His wealth of experience with finance and budgeting, human resources, facilities and operations will be a great asset as we build upon the success of Experience One and continue to find innovative ways to foster student success," said Chancellor Beth Weatherby.

### **Bareback Rider Tristan Hansen Places Third in the Nation**

Montana Western bareback rider Tristan Hansen placed third in the nation at the College National Finals Rodeo (CNFR) in Casper, Wyo. on June 16, 2018.

Hansen was tied for first after his first ride of 78.0. He went into Saturday's short-go and tied for third in the nation.

He drew "Golden Girl" scoring 73.5, finishing third overall with a score of 305.0 on four rides. Hansen is a Natural Horsemanship major. He placed in the top ten at the CNFR three times during his career at Montana Western. In 2016, he placed eighth in the nation and in 2017 took second.

## **Miss Dillon USA Baleigh Doyle Participates in Second NASA Internship**

Baleigh Doyle, Montana Western student and Miss Dillon USA 2018, is working with NASA again this summer.

This year, she is creating an instruction manual for her statistical MATLAB software programs, which she started constructing last summer during her first internship.

Doyle built a model rocket and launched it at the visitor's center. "I wore my Miss Dillon USA sash for the first time at the rocket launch," Doyle said. "I hope to bring awareness to careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) and will make more appearances around Dillon once I return from my internship," said Doyle.

## **Montana Western Foundation Announces Frank "Frog" Hull Scholarship**

The University of Montana Western Foundation is honored to announce the Frank "Frog" Hull Scholarship, established by members of Hull's family in his memory.

The \$1,000 award will be presented to a student majoring in English with great potential, financial need and a minimum GPA of 3.0.

Hull graduated from Western Montana College in 1958 with a Bachelor of Science in Education and later earned his Master's in Education in 1960. He spent time as a teacher, juvenile probation officer, motivational speaker, city judge, and was a continuous supporter of UMW and the community.

## **Marcus Payne Conducts Research at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center**

Marcus Payne, a 2018 Montana Western graduate, is working for NASA on several projects including research, marketing, and partnership opportunities this summer.

The highly competitive internships have an acceptance rate of roughly 450 out of thousands of applicants.

The Montana University System (MUS) provides students at Montana campuses with hands-on research experiences which prepare them to compete nationally for research internships that will allow them to gain exposure to cutting-edge techniques and ideas.

Payne has been creating a marketing campaign for NASA that showcases successful licensing agreements and partnerships that connect external companies to technologies, which are developed at GSFC.

## **Alan Weltzien Researches the American West and Italy During Residency**

English Professor Alan Weltzien was awarded a grant for "Visiting Professors and Scholars" at the University of Bergamo located in Bergamo, Italy where he taught and explored the entire month of May 2018 and into the first week of June.

Weltzien stayed in Città Alta, the upper city nestled in the hills of Bergamo.

Weltzien spent much of his time researching the relationship between the American West and Italy and the works of western novelist Thomas Savage, who wrote about life in the American West from the mid 1940's into the late 1980's.

## **UMW Receives Ranking in Top Three on Best Four-Year State Colleges List**

The University of Montana Western was ranked third among the top ten "Best Four-year Colleges in Montana" by Schools.com, an online education resource.

The ranking is based on factors including affordability, flexibility and student services.

A unique aspect of Montana Western is Experience One, an innovative class scheduling system that allows students to focus on a single course at a time.

U.S. News & World Report has also bestowed UMW with several rankings in the Western region, including #8 in Best Regional Colleges, #4 in Top Public Schools, #5 in Best Value Schools, and #6 in Best Colleges for Veterans.

## **X-CAMP Provides Engaging Learning and Teaching Opportunities**

X-CAMP is a hands-on educational camp for children offered at UMW each summer. This year's camp, "Under the Big Sky," was held July 9-13, 2018.

Dr. Estee Aiken, Associate Education Professor, teamed up with the UMW School of Outreach, facilitators of the camp, to provide an innovative experience through the course "EDEC 332: Science and Social Studies for Early Childhood (K-3)" for the second summer in a row.

Prospective teachers from Montana Western engaged in eight weeks of online preparation for the camp. The unique approach helped teacher candidates apply their skills and take on the role of lead teachers.

## **Montana Western Ranked Among Best Online Colleges in the State**

The University of Montana Western was recently ranked second among the top ten "Best Online Colleges in Montana for 2018" by OnlineColleges.com, an education information resource.

The ranking is based on factors including graduation, acceptance and retention rates. UMW was also listed first among the site's most affordable online four-year colleges in the state.

The University of Montana Western offers multiple career advancement and certification courses online through the School of Outreach, which has been providing industry, healthcare and teacher professional development opportunities for over 40 years.

## **Honors Course Explores Glassblowing Traditions and European Culture**

Michael Hengler, Associate Professor of Fine Arts, took 13 students to Europe for block seven during the spring semester.

The 26-day trip honors course, "Tracing the Dissemination of the Venetian Glass Tradition Northward," was designed by Hengler with the intention for students to be immersed in European culture, food, history and the art of glassblowing.

The UMW Foundation provided Emerick scholarships to qualifying students for the study abroad course. Emerick chaired Montana Western's Art Department from 1925 until her retirement in 1968. When Emerick passed away in 1981, trusts totaling over \$700,000 were willed to Montana Western to support future art students.

## **Natural Horsemanship Students Share Knowledge in Germany**

Natural Horsemanship Instructor Eric Hoffmann taught in Germany with Tess Turk and Lorrie Ann Smith, UMW Natural Horsemanship students who also shared their knowledge as guest clinicians.

The clinics, hosted by the Deutsche and American Quarter Horse Associations, featured topics including young horse development and improving overall horsemanship skills.

The expenses of the trip were covered by scholarships through the associations, including food, lodging, and travel expenses.

The clinics were open to all breeds of horses, with the goal for riders to learn how to communicate with their horses and improve their riding and handling skills.

## **Students Attend Montana New Leadership Summer Institute**

Adrianna Pittman and Kacin Bolinger-Perret, Montana Western students, attended the Second Annual Montana New Leadership Institute held June 3-7, 2018.

Sixteen undergraduates from across Montana met at the University of Montana in Missoula with many local, state and national leaders to aid in the development of leadership skills.

They engaged in open-minded discussions, workshops and hands-on projects. The goal was to bring new ideas to different communities and improve community leadership and engagement.

## **Caleigh Buckmaster Conducts Genetics Research During Summer Internship**

Caleigh Buckmaster, a biology major at Montana Western, participated in a 10-week internship this summer at the University of Montana in Missoula, Mont.

As part of the Summer Undergraduate Research Program at the Center for Environmental Health Sciences, she will be testing RNA to determine which genes encode inflammatory cytokines, a signaling molecule released as part of the body's inflammatory response to foreign materials.

Buckmaster gained knowledge on several topics during her internship, including how to extract RNA from tissue samples. "I now know two main ways to make cDNA from RNA and another way to make cDNA using a kit," she said.