



## The University of Montana Western Campus Report

**DATE:** Wednesday, June 19, 2019  
**TO:** Board of Regents  
**FROM:** Beth Weatherby, Chancellor  
**RE:** Campus Report for the July 2019 Board of Regents' Meeting

- **Montana Western Celebrates the Class of 2019**

The University of Montana Western held its annual Legacy Plaza Celebration and Commencement Ceremony on May 10 and 11, 2019, celebrating the accomplishments of the Class of 2019.

462 Montana Western graduates will be awarded at least 561 degrees by the end of the 2018-19 academic year. Of the 462 students, 91 have completed two or more degrees, and over 60% of the graduates are receiving honors by achieving a GPA of 3.33 or higher. This is the highest number of degrees awarded in Montana Western's history.

- **UMW Ranked Among Best Online Degrees in Early Childhood Education**

The University of Montana Western was recently ranked among the "Top 50 Most Affordable Bachelor's in Elementary Education or Early Childhood" by Top Education Degrees, an online education resource. The ranking is based on factors including affordability, U.S. News & World Report online program rankings and program accreditation.

The University of Montana Western's BS in Early Childhood Education focuses on understanding the needs and behavior of children before working with them in an educational setting. Students can choose to take the degree program in a

classroom setting or online, offering flexibility for students who cannot attend traditional classes.

These offerings provide flexibility for rural Montanans and extend Montana Western's unique experiential learning model, called Experience One, through its online degree programming by requiring students to "practice what they learn" in their respective environments.

- **2019-20 Chancellor's Leadership Scholars Announced**

The Chancellor's Leadership Scholars Award is a four-year, full-tuition scholarship awarded to exceptional students residing in the state of Montana who will be attending the University of Montana Western in the fall.

Montana Western is proud to announce the five following high school seniors as the 2019-20 award recipients: Rilee Gray, Turner Sawyer, Hayden Kunhardt, Jayden Winslow and Jessica Delong.

- **UMW Faculty Member and Student Become MHSA Officials of the Year**

Montana Western Associate Professor of Business and Technology, Kevin Engellant, was recently named the Montana High School Association (MHSA) Girl's Basketball Official of the Year.

Pat Armstrong Jr., was named Montana Boy's Basketball Official of the Year. A graduating senior, Armstrong will graduate with an education degree through a grant program partnership between UMW, Blackfeet Community College and Browning Public Schools.

- **Lucy Carson Library Receives Statewide Award**

At the 107<sup>th</sup> annual Montana Library Association conference held in Helena, Mont., the University of Montana Western's Lucy Carson Library received the 2019 Excellent Library Service Award from the Montana State Library Commission.

The ELSA recognizes libraries for achieving excellence in serving their communities by exceeding the essential Montana Public Library Standards. The standards define excellence in categories including collection development, information access, continuing education for staff and trustees, and outreach to the community.

- **Rebekah Levine Publishes Research with the Nature Conservancy**

Rebekah Levine, geomorphologist and assistant professor in the Environmental Sciences Department at Montana Western, collaborated on a watershed research project with the Nature Conservancy. Their joint research was published in "Earth and Space News," a publication by the American Geophysical Union.

Levine began her research on winter snowfall in 2012 with a goal to discover a way to use snowfall patterns to predict dry conditions later in the season. Levine was approached by the Nature Conservancy, a non-profit organization, to classify watersheds in a way that would allow the agency to make more effective and economically viable conservation choices.

- **Montana Western Names Students to 2019 Spring Semester Dean's List**

The University of Montana Western named 585 students to the 2019 spring semester Dean's List.

To achieve this honor, students must be enrolled full-time or for 12 semester credits and carry a minimum 3.33 grade point average. Several students received Dean's List high honors by carrying a 4.0 grade point average.

- **Matt Allen Elected to the PNACAC Executive Board**

Matt Allen, Director of Admissions at Montana Western, was recently elected to the Pacific Northwest Association for College Admission Counseling (PNACAC) Executive Board.

PNACAC represents college admissions professionals in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington, while the Executive Board provides general direction and policies for the organization.

Allen was elected as the Government Relations Chair, a three-year term. He will monitor legislation that affects admission and college counseling by facilitating communication between PNACAC members and government officials at the federal and state level.

- **Student Research Symposium Highlights Academic Achievement**

This spring, Montana Western students from a variety of majors gathered to share their research with the campus and community of Dillon, Mont. during the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Research Symposium. The event was organized by Biology Professor Michael Morrow with the UMW Biology Club and the Associated Students of the University of Montana Western.

Students share their research projects, internship and experiential learning experiences, and senior theses during the two-day event. The top research posters and oral presentation winners, selected by a special review panel, were awarded scholarships by the Montana Western Foundation.

- **UMW Students Share Research at Sports Medicine Conference**

Assistant Professor of Health and Human Performance, Laura Young, with UMW students Russell Kujala, Cole Davis, Kelsie Gray, Tanner Lehr, Sabrina Durnez and Gabrielle Moeller, presented research at the Northwestern American College of Sports Medicine (NWACSM) conference in Bend, Oregon during the spring semester.

The mission of the NWACSM is to provide educational opportunities for professional development in exercise science and sports medicine while also aiding as a resource for the general public regarding sports medicine, health and fitness issues.

- **Reilly English Volunteers Abroad with the Montana Dental Outreach Team**

Reilly English, molecular biology major and senior at UMW, traveled to Ghana, West Africa with the Montana Dental Outreach Team (MDOT) this spring. The MDOT offered dental services in a small inland village based out of a local orphanage. After treating all of the children in the orphanage, the group expanded services to community members in the surrounding villages. They cared for roughly 475 people by providing a wide range of dental services.

Montana Western's block scheduling system, known as Experience One, combined with English's internship and current job prepared him for his unique experience abroad.

"I have worked with professionals in the dental field all through my undergraduate degree, which has guided me to the career that I want to pursue after attending dental school," said English.