

**Date:** February 2021

**To:** Board of Regents

**From:** Sandra J. Bauman, Ed.D.  
Dean/CEO, Helena College University of Montana

**Subject:** Campus Report for March 2021 Board of Regents Meeting

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### **eLearning and Faculty Development**

- Smartboard technology is coming to several classrooms to continue to improve remote instruction.
- Helena College upgraded Moodle to version 3.9. There are some significant new features like [additional H5P interactive activities](#); [Safe Exam Browser](#), [new Mobile App](#), and others. The eLearning Office has conducted a tutorial meeting with faculty to highlight these new features.
- Swivl Robots are in use by faculty for livestreaming and recording their class on campus. The feedback about the robots has been positive from both faculty and students.
- Working on the final implementation of the TeachPoint (a professional development tracking software) platform configuration. The platform is expected to be rolled out and training on how to use TeachPoint will be offered to all employees in February. This is a joint and collaboration effort between the Faculty Development and Institutional Research departments.
- New mobile furniture (chairs and tables) are being tested in 2 classrooms this year. The feedback from instructors and students who are using them has been very positive.

### **K-12 Partnerships**

- Over 50 Early College high school students registered for spring 2021 classes at Helena College (up from 35 last spring).
- February is Career Technical Education month statewide. Helena College is hosting a Virtual Manufacturing Night on February 25 for 8-12 grade students and their families. The event will feature Helena College's welding and machining programs. Local employers will also join for a panel discussion.
- Dual credit registration for concurrent enrollment classes is underway for spring 2021. In an attempt to make the process smoother for distance learning students, Helena College is making use of DocuSign, an eSignature platform.
- East Helena High School is working closely with Helena College to establish pathways for the new high school's first class of juniors (2021-2022). This has included a collaboration between HC's computer technology faculty and an EHHS teacher to create a new Introduction to Computer Science class being offered to sophomores this spring. This course will prepare students for dual credit computer science classes next fall.

### **Financial Aid**

- FAFSA submission continues to run approximately 8% ahead for the 2021-2022 Academic Year versus the 2020-2021 Academic Year this time last year.

### **Enrollment**

- Spring applications were up by 12% from spring 2020. This was the first time we had a positive number in spring applications in 4 years.
- Helena College awarded 59 credentials at the end of the fall semester.
- Our fall applications from the ApplyMontana portal have doubled. A communication plan has been developed and activated to reach these prospective students.

### **Nursing Department**

- Sandra Sacry retired as Director of the Nursing Program after 12 years and Debra Rapaport is Acting Director of Nursing.
- New Nursing Lab in DON 106 has been in use daily since the start of the semester. The extra space allows students to practice on manikins and maintain social distancing.
- December LPN and RN graduates began taking the NCLEX licensure exam. So far several students have reported passing the NCLEX.
- Twenty-eight 3rd and 4th semester RN students received training this week on COVID19 vaccination administration and will help St. Peters Health with vaccines in the community.

### **TRIO SSS**

- HC TRIO SSS is working with TRIO programs around the state to coordinate the 3rd annual Student Leadership Conference March 6th - 7th. Students may also participate in the Montana College Access Network (MCAN) conference immediately following the Student Leadership Conference.

### **Airport Campus (APC)**

- Student Center and Lounge has been remodeled featuring new paint, floor, furniture, cabinets, and duct work and the front lobby/public area was re-carpeted. .
- Fire & Emergency Services Program has been moved to the APC from the Donaldson Campus to the old construction bay. The bay was deep cleaned from ceiling to floor to remove sawdust and a new garage door was installed to accommodate the large size fire trucks.
- Computer Aided Machining Program has received a \$10,000 grant from the HAAS Foundation for scholarships.
- The Automotive Maintenance Program has the majority of their purchasing completed for the Hybrid Training GEERF Grant. Hoists have been purchased along with many smaller pieces of equipment.

### **Continuing Education & Workforce Development (CEWD)**

- Two new programs, Physical Therapy Aid and Pharmacy Technician, will start in April.
- Certified Phlebotomy, Certified Medical Assisting, and Commercial Driver's licensing programs are all running this spring at near full and full capacity.
- The Commercial License Testing agreement with the Department of Justice enabling Helena College to be a Certified Testing Agent is finalizing and expected to be offered at the end of February as part of a GEERS grant funding opportunity.
- Helena College Continuing Education has partnered with the Helena Chamber to offer discounted online and self-paced non-credit courses to Chamber members enabling employee skills training and training enhancements.

- Helena College Small Business Development Center has welcomed a new staff member as the SBDC Senior Business Advisor as part of the Cares Act Funding to provide support to businesses impacted by COVID 19 through trainings and advising.
- Helena College Testing Center has accepted an agreement with MSU Northern to test Apprenticeships provided locally through MSU Northern programs, the Department of Agriculture to provide a third-party test for their employees required by the agency, and is currently working through PSI Certification to become a PSI Certified Testing Center.
- Currently Helena College Workforce Development and Helena College SBDC is working with American Jobs for American Youth to identify employers who may want to hire high school students in the program into a summer jobs apprenticeship. Helena College Testing Center will be offering Work Keys Testing to the students who participate.
- Helena College Workforce Development is working with Helena College TRIO to establish a career path for healthcare students involved in TRIO that will include a career assessment, a work summit, shadow experiences, Work Keys Testing and work experiences through internship or externship opportunities.

### Art Department



#### HELENA COLLEGE SHOWCASE

The third annual Helena College Showcase is set to display works of art from all Helena College students, faculty, and staff that applied and were accepted.

The theme for this year's art show is **Persist**, a term that evokes ideas about moving forward, hope, hard work and continuing your pursuit regardless of the problems encountered. New to the art show will be over \$1200 in scholarships and prizes.