

Date: November 2023

To: Board of Regents

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

Subject: Campus Report for the November Board of Regents' Meeting

Community Education Center

The Community Education Center (CEC) has partnered with American Jobs for American Youth (AJAY) to apply for an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Grant through **Accelerate Montana for a Work Success Program**. The courses will be delivered from Helena College across the state to educational partners asynchronously to high school-aged students. They will then have the option to enter AJAY's Summer Apprenticeship Program to continue their work success training.

The Community Education Center was able to work with the **Montana Department of Corrections** to create a Welding course that will utilize Great Fall College's Welding trailer and a curriculum built by Helena College Welding Instructor, Cody Torres. A pilot course is scheduled to run at the Airport Campus over the winter break.

In conjunction with **Career Technical Education (CTE)**, the Community Education Center is working to create a welding program that would be offered to students during the spring semester that would lead to a certification in welding or lead into the first year of the credit welding program.

eLearning & Faculty Development

One of the goals for the department this academic year is to ensure that course materials align with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) compliance. A series of accessibility workshops are conducted throughout the year for faculty, and these sessions are also open to all HC employees.

- Workshop #1: Create Accessible WORD and PDF documents
- Workshop #2: Create Accessible PowerPoint Slides
- Workshop #3: Create Accessible Course Contents on Moodle
- Workshop #4: Create Accessible Excel Spreadsheets

The eLearning & Faculty Development department has a new collaboration starting this fall. We are collaborating with the Disability Office to review course materials to ensure they comply with accessibility standards for courses with enrolled students who have vision or hearing impairments. It is essential to ensure that we are effectively accommodating the special needs of these students and that course materials are ADA-compliant.

Jelena Kalderon, Instructional Designer and Technology Specialist has been working diligently on updating the accessibility resources and materials for faculty and meeting with the new faculty members to support them on the quality course design.

Nursing

The HC nursing students have been partnering with local healthcare providers and giving influenza shots this fall, including several of our third-semester students at the Fort Harrison, Veteran Administration (VA) Hospital.

Bryant Elementary

In October our Bryant Elementary 5th graders/honorary Helena College students were on campus for their art class to tie-dye t-shirts. Check out the [KTVH coverage](https://www.ktvh.com/news/fifth-graders-go-to-college-to-pursue-art) (<https://www.ktvh.com/news/fifth-graders-go-to-college-to-pursue-art>) and the photos below.



Figure 1 Shirt Preparation



Figure 2 Tie-dying in the Classroom

The entire Bryant Elementary School paraded through Helena College to show off their Halloween costumes and collected some candy on Halloween.

ART

In August, **Fort Harrison Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital** hosted its first annual art exhibition/competition for Montana. Winners will move on to the national level (which has been going on for several years). A former Helena College student, **Galen “Mac” McAllister**, took first place in three different categories. The art show is part of a larger grant/funding that will be growing the arts and

humanities at the VA to help serve the needs of their patients through art therapy and creative outreach resources.



Figure 3 Galen "Mac" McAllister Art Display

Seth Roby, HC Art Instructor, judged some of the categories at the local VA Art exhibit and has been selected as a National Juror to judge at the national-level VA Art competition.

Big Read Events

The HC Library Learning Hub, (LLH) hosted two **Big Read Events**.

The first event was a discussion of the Big Read book for this year, "**The Bear**" by **Andrew Krivak** to connect with other readers to share their thoughts and impressions of Krivak's book.

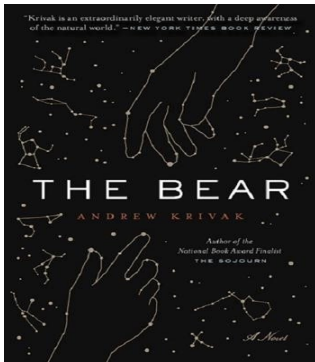


Figure 4 Illustration of the Cover of "The Bear"

Big Read Event

The second event was a presentation by author Christopher Preston, discussing his book, "The Resurgent Wild".



Figure 5 Big Read Logo

Overview: Wild nature fills the mythology of the American West. But is the wild disappearing? Despite this common fear, the restoration of animals like grizzly bears, bison, and wolves means that, in some contexts, Montana's wild nature may be starting to increase again. Nature, it turns out, may be on the point of being renewed. Christopher Preston looks at how these examples of renewal fit with the traditional account of nature preservation and what they might mean for how we think about the surrounding landscape going forward.

Christopher Preston teaches environmental philosophy at the University of Montana, Missoula. His expertise revolves around the Anthropocene, the epoch in which human influence is everywhere. He studies emerging technologies for their impact on the human-nature experience and restoration and rewilding efforts. His award-winning book, "The Synthetic Age: Outdesigning Evolution, Resurrecting Species, and Reengineering Our World", has been translated into six languages. His latest book, "Tenacious Beasts: Wildlife Recoveries That Change How We Think about Animals" (February 2023), offers hope for recovering species and lessons about how to live with them.

Funding for Montana Conversations is provided by Humanities Montana through grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Montana's Cultural Trust, and private donations.

Alumni Night

Abby Rausch was busy planning our **First Alumni Social!** Ads were running on social media and the radio. The event took place on (October 5, 2023, at Headwaters Craffhouse from 5 to 8 p.m.) It coincides with our regularly scheduled First Thursday event, so as usual, 10% of every item sold that evening went towards scholarships for Helena College students. It was a great opportunity for our alumni to reconnect, reminisce, and celebrate the shared experiences and successes that have shaped their lives since leaving Helena College. We had live music by Marly and the Pocket and giveaways from local businesses.



Figure 6 Alumni Event



Figure 7 Donation Table Prizes

K-12 Partnerships

Dual Credit registration was a huge success in September. During the second full week of September over 650 dual credit students were registered adding to the 110-college credit-only dual enrollment students taking classes at Helena College. Dual Enrollment and the Registrar spent two days at Capital High and once again, Helena High students were able to walk across the seat and register on the Helena College campus.

Helena College Dual Enrollment Advisors are back in the high schools. Cheryl Ravenscroft, Assistant Director of K-12 Partnerships is at East Helena High once a week supporting our dual enrollment students and dual credit teacher partners. Helena College Dual Enrollment has planned visits to Drummond, Granite, and Seeley-Swan High Schools in the first week of November.

K-12 Partnerships was awarded a continuing grant for **Montana's Future at Work** allowing the continuation of our **Emergency Medical Technician (ECP130)** class to high school students. The grant will pay for the books, supplies, and fees for high school students taking the class. Helena College will also utilize Montana's Future at Work funding to offer **ServiceNow** certifications. Up to 12 students will work towards three certifications over two semesters. Sevicenow is a government software solution to

accelerate better outcomes through IT solutions and there is a large need for certified workers in the state of Montana.

In September Helena College representatives attended **Montana's Future at Work Summit**, in Red Lodge, Montana. The summit featured panels from Red Lodge High School CTE students, employers from Industry, and Perkins Reserve leadership from the Office of the Commissioner. Discussions included brainstorming micro-credentials for high school students relevant to the current needs in industry in the state of Montana.

Helena College K-12 Partnerships in conjunction with Helena College Nursing and Helena WINS hosted the third annual **PROSPECTS Healthcare Event** in October. This event is open to high school students who are on a pre-health pathway or interested in learning about the growing Helena healthcare industry with over 30 employers participating.

Helena (Workforce Innovation Networks) WINS Construction and Trades Day:

The goal is to help share with the community the impact of the Chamber and the programs. The below hyperlink is a great example of that. Construction and Trades Day has become one of the most successful events. The impact this day has on the 8th graders is evident and Tempest Technologies did an amazing job capturing the excitement of the students and employer partners that day.

[The video link for the Helena WINS Construction and Trades Day:](https://helenacollege.edu/campus_facilities/committees/leadership/docs/helena-chamber-wins-student-day-1.mp4)

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Chinese Mermaid Performance

The Montana University System (MUS) Director of Global Initiatives has collaborated with art schools in Montana and launched an international cross-cultural and youth development exchange program through theater in the past year. With its unique blend learning model that combines both immersion language and cultural learning and performing arts experience, the program hopes to pique local interest in Chinese language and culture and expose young people to the idea of teamwork, self-discipline, self-esteem, and cross-cultural communication that can lead to success in other aspects of their lives.

In this program, MUS Director of Global Initiatives has worked with the Chinese National Theater for Children (CNTC) and art schools in the United States to audition students for CNTC's original play "The Chinese Mermaid" in Mandarin Chinese. "Chinese Mermaid" is a Chinese folk story depicting a Mermaid girl regaining her freedom with the help of the young fishman JIN Zhuzi. The story presents the true, kind, and beautiful human nature and reflects how people long for a beautiful and harmonious life. The story further inspired us to explore the universal theme "What is love?": love does not dominate, it cultivates; love is a process of giving; love is about love itself; love is unconditional, without expecting anything in return; painful and joyful, sometimes makes you happy and sad.

A cast of 23 students and program staff were able to travel to Beijing for the final rehearsal and presented two performances of "Chinese Mermaid" at the CNTC in July. In addition, students from both countries were able to share their thoughts on language learning and the enriching aspects of cultural exchanges through interactive conversations post-performance.

The video link for the Chinese mermaid performance in Beijing:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1t6LkdWHLdOZLs0L37r6OgVTVI0a0ANAE/view?usp=sharing>

The video link for the "Youth Connects East-West" dancing recital the students performed in Beijing. It includes both American and Chinese dances they performed.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/13Wtz5cxyKRuLrZWYKYE-1w2B8hoDKG-C/view?usp=sharing>



Figure 9 Chinese Mermaid on Stage (Actress is a High School Student from Montana)



Figure 10 Figure on Stage in Costume



Figure 11 Sea Creatures