Colleagues,

Below you will find kudos, events, and updates from the campus community, MUS, and the State.

- In September, the Army Research Lab awarded CAMP $2.3M for Year 2 research under a cooperative agreement on Materials Technology: Science and Engineering Research for the Army (MT-SERA). Ten faculty, seven Ph.D. students, and numerous masters and undergraduate students are involved in the projects.

- Jerry Downey and collaborator, Ed Rosenberg at UM, were awarded a $495K research grant from the MUS Research Initiative to develop a process for recovering metal contaminants from industrial wastewater using magnetic nano-composites in a novel continuous flow process system.

- Amy Verlanic, Executive Director of Montana Tech’s Institute for Educational Opportunities, announced that the TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) grant from the U.S. Department of Education has been awarded to Montana Tech. The $1.1M grant allows Tech to offer services to 120 of Montana Tech’s Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Health Science students for five years.

- The Women of Montana Tech hosted a purse auction and champagne brunch on Saturday, October 3 in the HPER Complex. The event, called “Purse Strings,” was a benefit for Safe Space in Butte. A variety of filled purses were available during the silent and live auction. The event, through the donations of Butte women, raised about $8,000 for the women’s shelter. The Robbins family donated $5,000 to support event costs. In an editorial, the Montana Standard stated, “The refreshing thing is the interaction between town and gown on the event, organized by Vicki Blackketter and put on by the Women of Tech.”

- Karen VanDaveer, the Director of Nursing at Montana Tech, was recognized with the Outstanding Nurse Award for 2015 by the Montana Center to Advance Health through Nursing. Tech can brag as having the highest passage rate in Montana on NCLEX exam and is excited to accept our first class of BSN nurses in January of 2016.

- **Construction on Campus**
  We are partnering with Silver Bow County on a sewer extension south of Alumni Coliseum that will open up the west end of campus for future expansion. This will allow Tech to move forward on our Living & Learning Center (dorm and more).

  The swimming pool design has been approved by the Montana Department of Health and the first phase of the project, for replacing the pool liner, upgrading the main drains, and replacement of the return gutters, is in final design and will go out for bid soon.

  We will have two energy conservation projects underway soon. The first energy project is control and ventilation modifications to the CBB. The second is controls and ventilation modifications to the ELC building which, when coupled to the completed NRRC addition, will include air conditioning for the ELC building. These two projects tackle the buildings that use the most energy, and so will help considerably with our utility costs.

- **Budget Process**
  The budget development process for FY 2017 will be similar to last year. The Deans will again draft their respective college budgets, and the Deans along with Department Heads will present their requests to the Executive Council. The same process will happen on the non-academic side of the house. All budget hearings will be open to the campus and you are encouraged to attend.

- **Faculty Development Grant Initiative**
  Provost Abbott will again invite proposals for institutionally funded research and scholarly efforts later this fall. Last fiscal year, thirteen faculty development grants totaling $70K were awarded.

- **Tech Day success**
  Montana Tech’s fall Tech Day took place on October 16th and the campus welcomed approximately 100 guests from Montana, Alaska, California, Utah and Washington. Departments that chose to be part of the collaborative breakout sessions were Computer Science, Electrical Engineering, Health Care
Informatics, Occupational Safety and Health, Mathematics, Mechanical Engineering, Metallurgical & Materials Engineering, and Mining Engineering. Tech Day also included a majors exploration workshop, a paying for college workshop, both a parent and a student panel, and campus tours. Similar events that will be held this academic year are Local’s Only Tech Day and Highlands College Preview Day in November, and a Spring Tech Day on April 22nd.

- **Enrollment**
  Enrollment is up again from last fall despite granting 542 degrees and certificates to 522 students. Comparing this fall to fall of 2014, we are up 35 in headcount, and 50 in FTE. We have students from 41 states and 23 international countries, totaling 2980 headcount and 2642 FTE. Missed the 3,000 mark! Our retention efforts appear to be working as we are keeping more returning students. This is a result of organized effort on your part. Our out-of-state student numbers are up and our dorms and apartments are at maximum, which is a good thing. Our first time freshman number is down slightly, but in-state students are down at every institution in Montana. Our graduate student numbers continue to grow both at the MS and PhD level. We are up about 20 grad students, and the total is north of 220.

- **Montana Tech Foundation**
  Our alumni and friends continue to provide support for our campus, faculty and students. In the next few days, we will release an announcement on a $1M towards our Living and Learning Center. We also have two other $1M gifts that we will announce shortly – one for an endowed Faculty Excellence Chair and the other in support of the LLC and student scholarships. Combined with the gifts for the NRRC and other recent gifts from Jerry and Julie Schuyler, the Foundation is having a record year. This year the Foundation provided a record $1.7M in scholarships. Thanks to you and our friends and alumni.

- **Parking**
  We have completed the changes we planned on over the summer for parking – we went to a hang tag instead of decal, we created dedicated motorcycle parking so they would not take up car/truck spots, we carved out more spots in existing lots, we installed the gravel overflow lot west of the football field, and we moved fleet parking below hike/bike trail that freed up more parking west of HPER. As a note, we continue to have more parking spaces than the number of parking permits that we sell. If at any time you feel you need a ride from the parking lot to closer to your destination, please call Tech Security at 496-4357. You can do this especially at night or if you have mobility concerns.

- **Athletics**
  Student-athletes at Montana Tech are having a winning fall season! The volleyball team is at 16-10, and football is at the top of the conference at 6-1 and ranked No. 10 in the latest poll.

- **Upcoming Events**
  Saturday, October 31 is Family Fun day and Parent’s Weekend at the Montana Tech vs. Eastern Oregon Football Game. We will host a tent near the football field starting at 11 a.m. Other plans include a “scary” spook tunnel, football toss and other games for the kids. There will be trick-or-treating in the tailgate area beginning at 10:30 am. The Montana Tech Foundation will be giving away candy, reflective pumpkin bags, and reflectors so the kids can “Be Safe and Be Seen.” It is also Cancer Awareness Day, so remember to wear pink or wear your Halloween costume! I personally encourage you all to join us for some fun and football.

  December Graduation and TGIF will be held on Friday, December 11 at 5 p.m. this year, to avoid a conflict with the finals schedule. It will be held in the HPER. The Order of the Engineer ceremony is December 12, and Nursing Pinning ceremony is December 17 at 6 p.m. in the Library Auditorium.

Sincerely,

Don and Doug