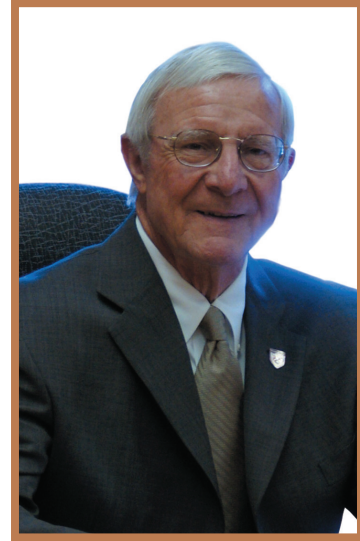


LETTER FROM CHANCELLOR GILMORE

February 4, 2010

Dr. Sandra E. Elman
Executive Director
NW Commission on Colleges & Universities
8060 165th Avenue NE, Suite 100
Redmond, WA 98052



Dear Dr. Elman:

The enclosed **Institutional Self-Study Report** represents the efforts of faculty, staff, students and administration of Montana Tech of The University of Montana. While the faculty contributed substantially to this Self-Study, none of the groups named dominated the study. This is truly an institutional self-study that represents the efforts of all constituencies of Montana Tech.

Based on a review of the requirements of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities for accreditation and the evidence provided by the Self-Study, I believe Montana Tech fully meets all these requirements. We look forward to the ten-year Accreditation Reaffirmation Review and we welcome the Evaluation Team to our campus.

Montana Tech was chartered as the Montana State School of Mines by the third Montana Legislature on February 17, 1893. Although name changes have occurred over the years, our campus in Butte remains an important part of the Montana University System which is governed by the Montana Board of Regents of Higher Education that has constitutional authority to operate public higher education in Montana. Montana Tech has a Chancellor that serves as the full-time executive officer. The Chancellor reports to the President of The University of Montana and through the President to the Commissioner of Higher Education and the Board of Regents. Montana Tech is fully authorized to award certificates, associates, bachelors' and masters' degrees.

Strategic planning, including review and modification of our mission and vision, is a significant part of our management practices. Assessment is taken seriously and we respond to trends we see from assessment. For example, we saw a trend that writing was one of our lowest scores on the MAPP Exam. Despite the fact that the score was acceptable, we hired a writing coordinator who is working hard to see that our instruction in this area improves.

Montana Tech strongly believes that students are first. The education, interest and well-being of our students are the primary purposes of the institution. Our financial resources are dedicated to these purposes.

The majority of our programs require two or more years for completion and lead to

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degrees. Our degree programs require an appropriate and substantial coherent component of general education. Our general education courses, as well as other courses, do not have any limits on freedom of inquiry or expression and faculty are encouraged to require students to do independent work, analyze what they learn and to deal with both abstract and concrete concepts. We clearly define and publish program requirements. Our programs require an appropriate foundation and we admit students based on appropriate criteria.

Montana Tech has an outstanding faculty. We have full-time core faculty for every degree program. The environment at Montana Tech is one that encourages faculty-student interaction.

Our library facilities are excellent for our focused mission, and the larger and broader holdings of the Mansfield Library of The University of Montana-Missoula are available through electronic means.

The catalog of Montana Tech is current and all our advertising properly describes our regional and professional accredited status. Our admission policies are followed and are appropriate for the programs offered.

Montana Tech operates in a highly efficient and financially responsible way. State support currently provides about one half of the operating budget. The institution has managed the financial resources well and provides outstanding education at an affordable cost. Our financial records are audited annually and an opinion on the financial statement is issued.

Principal educational programs of this institution have been in operation for more than one year and all of our programs currently have students pursuing these programs.

Montana Tech accepts the policies and standards of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities and agrees to comply with these standards and policies as currently stated or as modified in accordance with due process. We will disclose to the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities any and all information as the Commission may require to carry out its evaluation and accreditation function. Montana Tech understands and agrees that the Commission may, at its discretion, make known to any agency or members of the public that may request such information, the nature of any action, positive or negative, regarding the institution's status with the Commission.

Montana Tech meets all the eligibility requirements for continued membership in the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities and invites the Commission to conduct an evaluation to ascertain our qualifications for reaffirmation of regional accreditation.

Sincerely,



W. Franklin Gilmore
Chancellor