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2016 Institutional Assessment Report

Building a University for the Global Century

A comprehensive planning, budgeting, implementation, and assessment structure is key to the cost-effective achievement of the University of Montana's mission. Ensuring the adequacy and stewardship of resources is an ongoing and critical component of UM's mission.

This Institutional Assessment Report is published annually. It provides data that align with the institution's five strategic issues outlined in the 2020 Strategic Plan and captures the University's commitment to accountability, innovation, quality, and strategic resource allocation.

PARTNERING FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

Preparing K-12 students

- The EdReady program received a \$3.5 million gift from the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation. EdReady provides free help for college-bound students across Montana to avoid remedial coursework in college.
- SpectrUM Discovery Area's mobile science program launched a statewide science tour with "Water" as its newest mobile exhibition, to inspire MT's next generation about STEM and higher education.

Transitioning to college

- UM revived the freshman seminar course to help students transition to college successfully by learning about campus life and resources, making connections with other students, and developing key academic skills.
- The average first-term GPA of students was 2.83 and the average first-year GPA was 2.97

Integrating the early college curriculum

- The second class of Global Leadership Initiative (GLI) students completed the capstone phase of the program. Their projects included an experiment that looked at the effectiveness of poetry as a treatment for depression, a portable sauna, and a mobile application that encourages users to recycle. The GLI provides interdisciplinary coursework, out-of-classroom experiences, advising, and support to enable students to examine global challenges and achieve confidence in their knowledge and abilities.

Engaging students

- The Davidson Honors College serves 700 talented students.
- GLI fellows enroll in small seminars focused on new and enduring global challenges taught by faculty recognized for their scholarship and teaching excellence.

Strengthening student support

- UM was the only school in the region named a top school in the Military Advanced Education and Transition 2016 Guide to Top Colleges and Universities. The VETS office was praised for their support of student veterans.
- The fall to fall mountain campus retention rate was 77%

Emphasizing faculty and staff development

- The Faculty Development Office held 30 professional development sessions. Total attendance was 571, up more than 100 from the year before.
- Human Resource Services introduced two new certificate programs for employees interested in obtaining new skills: the Financial Development Certificate program and Academic Advising Certificate program.

EDUCATION FOR THE GLOBAL CENTURY

Strengthen foundational academic programs

- UM's School of Journalism was ranked 8th best in the nation in a survey by the Radio Television Digital News Association for providing students with real-world experience.
- UM received a \$21 million gift from the Franke family in support of the W.A. Franke College of Forestry & Conservation and the Franke Global Leadership Initiative to support emphasize environmental research and hands-on learning experiences for students.

Two-year programming responsive to local, regional, state and national needs

- Culinary Art student Katie Barnes won a gold medal at the American Culinary Federation and Washington State Chefs Association Culinary Competition.
- Missoula College developed certificates in Business Media Design, Computer Programming, Precision Machine Technology, and Construction Helper in response to workforce needs.

Innovation through graduate education

- UM granted 50 PhD degrees.
- UM developed PhD programs in: Speech Language Pathology, Teaching & Learning, and Public Health.
- Graduate students as a percentage of total enrollment: 17.1%

Global engagement and leadership at all levels

- UM was named the number 10 medium-sized University for producing Peace Corps volunteers; this is the twelfth time the University has placed in the top 25.

DISCOVERY AND CREATIVITY TO SERVE MONTANA AND THE WORLD

Enhance contributions by faculty and students through research

- The volume of grant and contract expenditures rose to \$78.5M from \$64.6M in 2015
- Assistant Professor of Biology John McCutcheon and Assistant Chemistry Professor Orion Berryman received CAREER grants from the National Science Foundation. This award recognizes junior faculty who exemplify the role of teacher-scholars through outstanding research, excellent education and the integration of education & research.

Expand knowledge and cultural diversity through creative scholarship

- School of Art Professor Trey Hill's sculptures were displayed at the Missoula Art Museum.
- School of Music Assistant Professor Emilie LeBel became the first woman to win the Land's End Ensemble's Composer Competition.
- Amy Ratto Parks, assistant director of composition, won the 2016 Phi Beta Kappa Arts & Sciences Poetry Contest.

Turn today's discoveries into tomorrow's products through technology transfer, contributing to the creation of ideas, jobs, and business opportunities

- UM developed a partnership with Inimmune Corporation, a biotech company focused on the discovery and development of new therapeutics for treatment of allergy, autoimmunity, upper respiratory tract infections & cancer.
- Students competed for more than \$50,000 in prizes at the John Ruffato Business Startup Challenge, part of UM's effort to develop entrepreneurial skills and promote entrepreneurship in Montana.

DYNAMIC LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

People – Lead in recruiting, retaining & developing the highest quality students, faculty & staff

- Biology Professor Doug Emlen was elected to the American Academic of Arts and Sciences.
- History Professor Anya Jabour served as a historical consultant for the PBS Civil War drama "Mercy Street".

Programs – Provide programs of distinction, create local and worldwide partnerships, connect programs to our unique location

- Academic Analytics ranked the Wildlife Biology program number one in the nation based on faculty productivity.
- UM launched a Health and Medicine Initiative to foster advances in health education and research and to recognize and promote that UM offers more health career programs than any campus in the state.

- UM Family Medicine Residency program graduated the first class of family physicians, many of whom will work in Montana's rural and underserved areas.

Infrastructure – Use technologies and practices that optimize the learning experience while modeling sustainability

- ASUM purchased zero-emission battery-electric buses. ASUM transportation provided more than 400,000 complimentary rides to students, staff, faculty & visitors.
- UM Dining unveiled a new garden space to expand opportunities for students and community members to learn about sustainable farming while increasing the fresh produce available for dining operations.

Culture – Encourage engagement and a passion for learning in all students

- Communication Studies undergraduate students won the top paper award at the Western States Communication Association's annual Undergraduate Scholar's Research Conference.
- UM business students score in the 94% compared to other business schools nationwide on the Business Major Field Test.

Place – Integrate the character of the campus environment into discovery and instruction

- UM Global Leadership Initiative Class "Can Giving Change the World?" granted \$10,000 to local nonprofits within Missoula County. Students spent the semester learning about philanthropy's general influence in social improvement while also researching nonprofit work, specific community needs in Missoula County and doing a service learning project.

PLANNING-ASSESSMENT CONTINUUM

Linkage of plans and resources

- The University Budget Committee, in collaboration with the reorganized Fiscal Affairs and Budget team, created a subcommittee that is developing a new budget model for the University.

Transparent and participative processes throughout the cycle

- The Strategic Planning Coordinating Council listened to thousands of people on campus, in Missoula, and across the state to understand the motivations, aspirations, and frustrations of UM stakeholders when developing UM's next strategic vision.

Objective and timely assessment of outcomes

- During the Spring 2016 ASCRC Writing Retreat, 43 volunteer faculty, staff, graduate students and interns from UM-Missoula, Bitterroot College and Missoula College read and scored a sample of student submissions.
- UM participated in the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities' Demonstration Project to assess the degree to which UM is fulfilling its mission as evidenced by the data on student learning and general education.

