PUBLIC MEETING ON TWO-YEAR COLLEGE PROGRAMS
SET FOR MAY 29 AT UM COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

MISSOULA --

Anyone with opinions or concerns about two-year public college services is invited to attend a community meeting at The University of Montana College of Technology Wednesday, May 29.

Interested citizens are invited to drop in between 4 and 8 p.m. to Room HB-01 of the College of Technology’s Health and Business Building, 909 South Ave. W., Missoula. A separate session will be held at the same time at the Montana Power building, 1140 S. First St., Hamilton.

Designed to be convenient and flexible, the meetings will offer several ways for people to share their opinions and ideas on local needs and ways in which the University can best meet those needs. Individuals may complete a questionnaire, participate in small group discussions, talk one-on-one with a survey taker, or provide written comments.

The education and training provided by two-year colleges are crucial to the future of this region’s economy, communities and youth, said Dennis Lerum, dean of UM’s College of Technology. Solid programs are needed to meet current employment needs and prepare a skilled work force for the future demands of business and industry, Lerum said.

Unfortunately, he said, relatively few Montanans take advantage of the opportunities provided by two-year colleges. While Montana has one of the nation’s highest rates of participation in four-year higher education, the state ranks 45th in the nation for two-year college enrollment.

Wednesday’s meetings are part of an in-depth needs assessment conducted by MGT of America, a firm based in Olympia, Wash.

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