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NEWS RELEASE

Nov. 23, 2009

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UM HIRES OFFICE FOR STUDENT SUCCESS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MISSOULA —

Sharon O'Hare has accepted the position of executive director of The University of Montana Office for Student Success.

The office coordinates student support services such as advising, tutoring, Learning Commons and other retention programs and is an integral part of UM's Partnering for Student Success plan.

O'Hare will provide vision and leadership in all areas promoting student success and retention. She will work collaboratively with others, including academic deans, academic affairs and student affairs directors, faculty members, the Registrar's Office, and the Office of Planning, Budget and Analysis. Her duties will include the collection and analysis of retention and success data, as well as review of policies relevant to student development.

O'Hare has served as interim executive director of the Office for Student Success since she was appointed to that position last year by UM Provost Royce Engstrom. She has demonstrated a strong commitment to student success and exceptional abilities in planning, project management, data analysis and collaborative problem solving.

Before coming to UM, O'Hare conducted research and taught at Colorado State University and served in municipal governments as a city planner and project manager. At UM

she has provided math instruction and advising, created and managed tutoring services through STUDY JAM and Math PiLOT and served as the director of Math Learning Centers.

The search committee cited O'Hare's proven record and innovative and successful initiatives in programs she will oversee as the executive director for the Office for Student Success, as well as her leadership and openness to the ideas of others.

O'Hare holds a bachelor's degree in economics from Colorado State University and bachelor's and master's degrees in mathematics from UM.

For more information about Partnering for Student Success, visit <http://www.umt.edu/partnering>.

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