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UM Week of Welcome to Feature Showing of 'Jurassic World'

August 28, 2015

MISSOULA – “Jurassic World” will show on the Oval at 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 3, during the University of Montana’s Week of Welcome. The movie is hosted by the Student Involvement Network at the University Center.

The showing is free and open to the public. “Jurassic World” is rated PG-13 and open-captioned.

For more information email Adrienne Donald, associate director for student involvement and communications, at adonald@mso.umt.edu.

Contact: Adrienne Donald, University Center associate director for student involvement and communications, 406-243-6029, adonald@mso.umt.edu.



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UM Research Sets Record for Awards Received

August 28, 2015

MISSOULA – The research enterprise at the University of Montana received nearly \$83 million in research awards during fiscal year 2015 – an all-time record for the institution.

The total of \$82,964,694 surpassed the previous awards record of \$71 million set in 2009.

“Here at UM we have faculty with renowned national and international reputations,” said Scott Whittenburg, UM vice president for research and creative scholarship. “This new record shows how much our external sponsors value the contributions made by our research community.”

UM research expenditures are up 11 percent, vaulting from \$58.3 million in fiscal year 2014 to \$64.6 million in 2015.

Interestingly, the number of proposals researchers submitted in 2015 were down eight from the 637 submitted in 2014.

“This means we had a greater success in percentage of proposals being funded, combined with larger awards,”

Whittenburg said.

The growth in federal support at the University spans several federal agencies, including \$15 million from the federal Department of Labor, \$10.3 million from the National Institutes of Health, \$8.9 million from the National Science Foundation, \$4.7 million from the Army Corps of Engineers, \$4.3 million from NASA, \$4.1 million from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, \$3.8 million from the Department of Defense and \$1.8 million from the Department of the Interior.

The awards came from disciplines and specialties across campus. Some examples:

- Anthropology Professor Anna Prentiss was awarded a \$300,000 National Science Foundation grant for the Togiak Archaeological and Paleoecological Project. This is the first major study of human, climate and resource relationships in the northern Bristol Bay area of Alaska. The work will explore 1,000 years of human history.
- A UM team led by biology Professor Frank Rosenzweig has been selected for a five-year, \$8.2 million NASA grant to study how life evolved and became more complex on Earth. Space agency officials believe that a better understanding of how life arises, propagates and becomes increasingly complex will help them find and recognize it elsewhere in the universe.
- The Numerical Terradynamic Simulation Group, under the direction of Regents Professor of Ecology Steve Running and systems ecology Professor John Kimball, received \$2.1 million in research awards. One of those awards helped fund work with the Soil Moisture Active Passive mission, which will use a NASA satellite launched on Jan. 29 to produce the most accurate, highest-resolution global maps ever obtained from space of the moisture present in the top 2 inches of Earth's soils.
- Biology Professor Steve Lodmell received \$432,000 from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to study Reft Valley fever virus drugs, and biology Professor Scott Samuels received \$354,000 from NIH to examine regulation of gene expression.
- Rebecca Manners, a postdoctoral researcher affiliated with the UM Department of Geosciences and the Center for Riverine Science and Stream Renaturalization, received \$375,000 toward her project to build a hydrologically driven model of riparian ecosystem dynamics that accounts for the interactions between physical processes and riparian vegetation. As an NSF Science, Engineering and Education for Sustainability Fellow, Manners will work in the field over the next three years in the upper Colorado River Basin
- Professor Ric Hauer, director of the Center for Integrated Research on the Environment, and Kelly Dixon, an anthropology professor, received \$4.1 million from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to inventory and curate naval artifacts.

Aside from the burgeoning research dollars, Whittenburg pointed out two other recent positive indicators. The number of UM research patents his office oversees has passed 100, and one of the businesses generated by University research, Sunburst Sensors, won \$1.5 million in XPRIZE funding for producing the best device to affordably, accurately and efficiently measure ocean chemistry.

"Hopefully we have set ourselves on a track for even greater results in the coming years," Whittenburg said.

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UM, USGS Researcher Discovers Songbird Habitat Affects Reproduction, Survival

August 27, 2015

MISSOULA – A University of Montana professor who studies birds around the world has discovered trends in how the offspring grow, how parents care for the young and how well the young survive based on where they live. Now, his songbird research is hitting the right notes with the journal *Science*.

Thomas Martin, assistant leader of the U.S. Geological Survey Montana Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at UM, set out to explain why tropical birds tend to have fewer offspring that seem to grow slower and live longer, slower lives than their northern counterparts. He found tropical songbirds grow their wings faster, aided by higher parental feeding rates for fewer offspring than temperate species. Those differences, Martin said, ultimately translate to how well the offspring escape predators both in the nest and after they leave it.

Martin's article, "Age-Related Mortality Explains Life History Strategies of Tropical and Temperate Songbirds," will be published Aug. 28 in the journal *Science*.

"A bird species' risk of death among life stages, together with growth strategies of young, is a pivotal basis for a major leap forward in understanding latitudinal variation in life history strategies of songbirds," Martin said.

Martin, together with students and assistants, studied growth and nest predation of 20 to 30 co-existing songbird species in Venezuela from 2002 to 2008 and Malaysia from 2009 to 2014.

They also studied songbird nests in Arizona the past 28 years. The tropical songbirds typically only raise two young while temperate species commonly raise four or more. But tropical offspring may be more likely to survive.

Offspring of tropical species were thought to grow slower than those living in the Northern Hemisphere. That slower growth suggests offspring spend more time in the nest and, therefore, are at greater risk of being killed by predators. Tropical songbirds' nest predation risks are equal to, if not higher than, temperate birds, so biologists would expect them to grow as fast as temperate birds, rather than slower. Martin discovered that nestling bodies actually were similar in size when considered over the entire growth period, but tropical birds' wings grow faster. Martin said the paradoxical system can be explained by their greater parent-to-offspring ratio, which allows parents to provide each offspring more nutrition to aid growth.

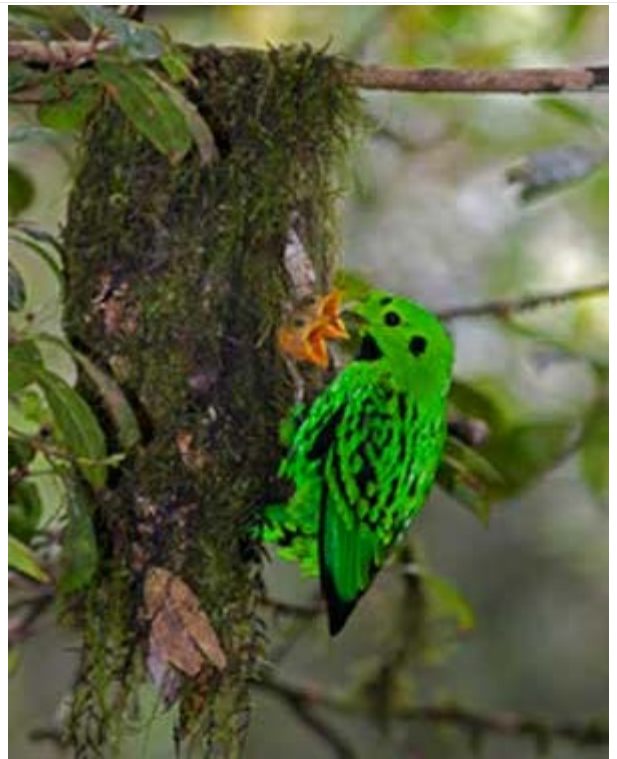
"Provisioning, parental investment and mortality are all related," Martin said. "A later, faster growth spurt of tropical songbirds, together with higher parental effort invested per offspring, aids wing growth and flight capabilities after the young birds leave the nest."

Therefore, the tropical young are more likely to survive.

"That previously unrecognized faster growth of wings among tropical species aids in escape from predators after young leave the nest," Martin said.

Because of their lower adult mortality rates, tropical birds are able to reduce their clutch size. By doing so, they can invest more time and energy, providing food to each individual offspring.

Temperate birds experience a higher adult mortality rate, especially during winter months and migration. They produce more





young at the expense of a lower investment per offspring.

Martin said by showing the mortality risk to which different species are subjected to at different life stages, scientists can begin to see the balance of traits favored by evolution.

The study was funded by the National Science Foundation and the Ecosystems Mission Area of the USGS.

###

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Homecoming Parade Applications Available Now Online

August 26, 2015

MISSOULA – Applications are now available for entry into this year’s University of Montana Homecoming Parade, to take place at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 26, in downtown Missoula.

Last year’s parade featured more than 120 entries. This year’s Homecoming theme, “A Tradition of Champions,” commemorates the 20th anniversary of the Montana Grizzlies’ first NCAA Division I-AA football national championship and celebrates the countless successes of UM students and alumni over the years.

Applications are available online at <http://www.grizalum.com> or by calling 406-243-5211 or toll-free at 1-877-862-5867. Applications also may be picked up in person at the Missoula Chamber of Commerce, 825 E. Front St., or at the Office of Alumni Relations and Alumni Association, Brantly Hall 115, University of Montana.

Applications must be received by Friday, Sept. 4, to be eligible for the \$30 early bird fee. Applications received after Sept. 4 will require a \$35 registration fee, and the final deadline to submit entries is 5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 11.

For more information call the UM Office of Alumni Relations at 406-243-5211 or email alumni@umontana.edu.

Contact: UM Office of Alumni Relations and Alumni Association, 406-243-5211, alumni@umontana.edu.



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Alpha Sigma Phi Fraternity Expanding to UM

August 26, 2015

MISSOULA — Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity will start a new chapter at the University of Montana beginning this fall. Missoula-area alumni and Alpha Sigma Phi staff members will recruit on campus beginning Wednesday, Aug. 26.

“We’re extremely excited to be expanding to the University of Montana and to share our brotherhood with young men looking to create a positive fraternity experience while challenging the status quo of what it means to be a Greek on campus,” said Layton River, Alpha Sigma Phi assistant director of expansion and growth.

Alpha Sigma Phi was founded at Yale University on Dec. 6, 1845, and the fraternity has 129 active chapters and colonies across the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom, with more than 52,000 living alumni. Alpha Sigma Phi’s values are silence, charity, purity, honor and patriotism.

For more information email Alpha Sigma Phi Coordinator of Expansion and Growth Adam Stahon at astahon@alphasigmaphi.org or UM Interim Assistant Director of Fraternity and Sorority Involvement Caitlin Parker at caitlin1.parker@umontana.edu.

Contact: Adam Stahon, Alpha Sigma Phi expansion and growth coordinator, astahon@alphasigmaphi.org; Caitlin Parker, UM interim assistant director of Fraternity and Sorority Involvement, caitlin1.parker@umontana.edu.



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Estate Gift Creates Scholarships for Top Students

August 25, 2015

MISSOULA – After James Wylder '51 and his wife, Frances '53, of **Great Falls** put their own kids through college, Jim started helping others. It meant something special, giving young people a boost when they needed it most.

“He was a great believer in education as a way to get ahead and develop yourself,” said Tim Wylder, the Wylders’ son.

Jim valued not only his classroom education but the experiences that the University of Montana provided him as an undergraduate in the late 1940s: playing on the tennis team, volunteering with student government and participating in the Silent Sentinel honor society.

Giving back to UM to support other students’ development seemed natural. As a businessman – first in the oil industry, then in the Coca-Cola bottling business in Great Falls – Jim understood the big picture: College degrees help individuals thrive in their careers, and a thriving workforce helps Montana’s economy grow. He also saw firsthand, when he met students at Griz games or special events, how higher education expands their worldviews.

A longtime supporter of UM and the University of Montana Foundation, he decided to leave a portion of his estate to support students. When he passed away in August 2014, the James M. and Frances M. Wylder Foundation established the James M. Wylder Presidential Leadership Scholarship.

Starting this autumn, the University will offer two exceptional Montana students the Wylder Scholarship. The award – among the most generous at UM – covers full tuition, fees, room, board, books and supplies for up to four years. The inaugural recipients, Hannah Pepprock and Keegan Whelan, graduated high school at the very top of their classes and are enrolled in UM's Davidson Honors College.

Pepprock, a graduate of Havre High School, plans to study anthropology.

“For the past three summers I have worked as a tour guide at the Wahkpa Chu'gn Buffalo Jump,” Pepprock said. “This, along with my lifelong love of history and culture, has really piqued my curiosity about anthropology. I am really looking forward to the education that awaits me at UM.”

Pepprock notes that the Wylder Scholarship was the deciding factor in her choice to attend UM.

“This scholarship allows me to attend the University at no cost to me and my family, and even gives me the opportunity to study abroad or pursue a master's degree. It was an opportunity I could not turn down.”

Whelan, who was a varsity swimmer at Butte High School, will major in pre-pharmacy.

“I chose the University of Montana for several reasons,” he said. “I can complete all six years of my pharmacy program at a school with a very high success rate on the licensing exam. My parents are both UM alumni. But receiving the scholarship from the Davidson Honors College and the Wylder family made my decision much easier.”

On the initial selection of the Wylder Scholars, Tim Wylder said, “My dad believed in UM's excellence, and he would have really appreciated knowing students like Hannah and Keegan are here because of him.”

###

Contact: Kate Stober, UM Foundation senior writer/editor, 406-243-2627, kate.stober@mso.umt.edu.

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UM Expects Busy Move-in, Game Day Weekend

August 24, 2015

MISSOULA – Students moving into residence halls at the University of Montana. Check. A sold-out, nationally televised Griz football game against the four-time defending FCS champs. Check. Probable delays in regards to parking and getting around campus. Check.

UM officials want students and members of the public to know they may experience delays accessing campus because of the start of fall semester and the early football game between UM and North Dakota State on Saturday, Aug. 29.

“Students and their parents will arrive on campus just as ESPN, Griz fans and NDSU fans flood into town,” said Peggy Kuhr, UM vice president for integrated communications. “We’ve never had move-in days that coincide with such a massive, high-profile athletic event on our campus. That – plus the River City Roots Festival downtown on Friday and Saturday – mean that Missoula is the place to be this weekend.”

The first official day for students to check into the residence halls is game day, Aug. 29. However, students bound for Aber Hall near Washington-Grizzly Stadium are able to check in on Friday, Aug. 28, at no charge for early

arrival, which is typically \$20 per student. In addition, UM Dining will have campus eateries open and available for cash purchases on Friday before the official start of meal plans on Saturday.

The UM Admissions office will be open from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 29, with representatives available from admissions, student advising and financial aid.

UM Athletics has agreed to keep some parking spots between Aber Hall and the University Center open for residence hall students trying to check in. Athletics staff also will monitor the lot during the first half of Saturday's game to ensure students can access Aber.

In addition, the parking lots around the Pantzer, Miller, Craig, Elrod, Duniway, Knowles, Turner and Jesse residence halls will be patrolled by UM police to ensure they remain accessible for arriving students and their families.

Students arriving on campus on Saturday, Aug. 29, are strongly encouraged to avoid the heavy, game-related traffic expected between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and 4 and 6 p.m.

The Sunday after the big game is GO Day, which includes games for UM students on the Oval and open houses throughout the day. For more information visit <http://www.umt.edu/orientation/goday/default.php>.

###

Contact: Peggy Kuhr, UM vice president for integrated communications, 406-243-2311, peggy.kuhr@umontana.edu.



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UM President to Deliver Annual State of the University Address Aug. 28

August 24, 2015

MISSOULA – University of Montana President Royce C. Engstrom will outline institutional accomplishments, issues and priorities ahead of the upcoming academic year during his annual State of the University Address at 10 a.m. Friday, Aug. 28.

The public and members of the media are invited to the event, which will be held in the Montana Theatre of UM's Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center. The address also will be streamed live online at <http://www.umt.edu/president/stream/sotu/>. Coffee and light refreshments will be served in the PAR/TV Center lobby starting at 9:30 a.m.

Also at the event, UM Provost Perry Brown and the academic deans will introduce new faculty members and congratulate those who have earned promotion or tenure. Engstrom will welcome the University's new administrators.

Contact: Peggy Kuhr, UM vice president for integrated communications, 406-243-2311, peggy.kuhr@umontana.edu.



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UM Researcher: Bat Communities Ripe for Transmitting Viruses

August 24, 2015

MISSOULA – When biologists track how a virus moves among animals, they normally map the path of the disease within just one species. UM Professor Angie Luis realized this wouldn't work for studying viruses in bats. Viruses pass easily between species of this flying mammal, so she wanted a method to study whole communities of bats.

In a new study published Aug. 24 in *Ecology Letters*, Luis and her colleagues used a network approach to see how bat communities share viruses and compare those findings with rodent communities. The paper is titled "Network analysis of host-virus communities in bats and rodents reveals determinants of cross-species transmission."

After sifting through the scientific literature from the past 70 years and compiling data on 339 host species connected by 282 viruses, Luis' team found the rodent virus-sharing network is only about 60 percent as connected as the bat network, meaning viruses seem to pass more easily between bat species than between rodent species.

Some of bats' unique characteristics may help facilitate this transmission of viruses between species. Some bat species can have massive colony sizes in the millions and some of these roosts can house a diverse array of bat species. This is the perfect opportunity for viruses to spread between individuals and between species. Luis and her

colleagues found bats with larger colonies were more likely to be more connected in the network, making it easier for them to share viruses with more species.

Bats are the only flying mammal, and the study showed bats that migrate regionally are important in the network. These “betweenness” bats might not host or share the most, but they connect different communities of bats to help viruses spread between different groups.

Luis’ study is the first analysis to identify communities of pathogen sharing on a global scale. This is important for protecting human health, as both bats and rodents carry a number of viruses that can infect humans, including ebola and SARS. Bats are more likely to share those viruses with their cross-species cousins.

Bats are the second-most diverse mammalian order (after rodents) with 1,100 species. Differences between species are created by size, diet, whether the bat echolocates or not, and more. These differences aren’t such a big deal when it comes to sharing a virus. That sharing depends mostly on three things: where the species overlap in distribution, the size of the colony (gregariousness), and migration habits.

“One thing that struck me early on in this study is just how many times viruses have jumped between species in both bats and rodents,” Luis said. “The opportunity for contact between two species appears more important than how closely related those species are, at least within taxonomic order. Perhaps the ‘species barrier’ is less of a barrier than we think.”

Contact: Angie Luis, assistant professor of population and disease ecology, UM College of Forestry and Conservation, 406-243-6606, angela.luis@umontana.edu.



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Country Superstar Miranda Lambert to Perform at UM Adams Center Sept. 24

August 21, 2015

MISSOULA – Reigning ACM and CMA Female Vocalist of the Year Miranda Lambert will bring her “Roadside Bars and Pink Guitars” Tour to the University of Montana this fall.

Lambert and several other emerging female artists will perform at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24, at the UM Adams Center. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets cost \$64.75 and will be available starting at 10 a.m. Friday, Aug. 28, at all GrizTix outlets, by calling 888-MONTANA or online at <http://www.griztix.com>.

The Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter’s hits include “Fastest Girl in Town,” “White Liar” and “Automatic.” Lambert recently thrilled audiences across the country with her Certified Platinum Tour, including her sold-out Madison Square Garden show in New York City. According to Rolling Stone magazine, “Lambert commanded her no-nonsense stage show with an effortless, unassuming confidence, singing fan-favorite ballads like ‘Over You’ and ‘The House That Built Me’ right alongside hard-partying rockers like her current single, ‘Little Red Wagon,’ and her signature, set-closing ‘Gunpowder and Lead.’”

Several up-and-coming female country artists will join Lambert for the “Roadside Bars and Pink Guitars” Tour, including RaeLynn, whose gold-certified single “God Made Girls” was a fan favorite on the spring tour. Pristine vocalist Ashley Monroe, singer-songwriter Courtney Cole and country rocker Clare Dunn also will accompany Lambert on the tour.

Visit <http://mirandalambert.com> for more details.

Contact: Brad Murphy, executive director, UM Adams Center, 406-243-4261, brad.murphy@mso.umt.edu.



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UM Among World's Top 500, Nation's Top 125 Universities in Academic Ranking

August 20, 2015

MISSOULA – The Academic Ranking of World Universities recently placed the University of Montana among the top 500 universities in the world. UM has made the list every year of the study, which began in 2003.

For the 13th year, UM has ranked between 301 and 400 in the study. The ARWU, which states it is “based on transparent methodology and third-party data,” is completed by the Center for World-Class Universities at Shanghai Jiao Tong University.

“The Shanghai ranking is important to us as they identify, using publicly available information, the top 500 universities among more than 22,000 in the world,” UM Provost Perry Brown said. “It is another statement about the quality of education and the stature of the University of Montana.”

UM is among 125 institutions in the country to be featured in the 2015 rankings, and was ranked between 103 and 125 nationally.

“In this ranking, UM is among many of the best-known and influential universities in the world, and it is really nice to

be the one Montana university recognized again this year," Brown said. "This ranking, along with several other announced this summer, is a recognition of the world-class faculty and students at UM."

The full report is available online at <http://www.shanghairanking.com/>.

###

Contact: Perry Brown, UM provost and vice president for academic affairs, 406-243-4689, perry.brown@umontana.edu.



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Annual Shakespeare in the Parks Performances Return to UM Oval

August 20, 2015

MISSOULA – The Student Involvement Network at the University Center will host Montana Shakespeare in the Parks performances of “Taming of the Shrew” on Monday, Aug. 31, and “Cyrano de Bergerac” on Tuesday, Sept. 1, on the Oval at the University of Montana. Both events start at 6 p.m. and are free and open to the public.

This performance of “Taming of the Shrew” is set in the Wild West. “Cyrano de Bergerac” is a heroic comedy about selflessness, bravery and love.

Montana Shakespeare in the Parks brings accessible, high-quality theater to communities in Montana and surrounding states that would not otherwise have the opportunity. For more information about Montana Shakespeare in the Parks and its tour schedule, visit <http://www.shakespeareintheparks.org>.

Contact: Adrienne Donald, University Center associate director, Student Involvement and Communications, 406-243-6029, adonald@mso.umt.edu.



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UM Professor Wins National Outstanding English Educator Award

August 19, 2015

MISSOULA – The University of Montana’s English department chair has been named the winner of the 2015 Richard W. Halle Award for Outstanding Middle Level Educator, given by the National Council of Teachers of English.

Beverly Ann Chin will be announced as the award recipient at the Middle Level Get-Together on Thursday, Nov. 19, during the 2015 NCTE Annual Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

“I am deeply honored by this recognition of my commitment, passion and advocacy on behalf of adolescent literacy,” Chin said.



Established in 1996, the Halle Award honors an educator who has worked to promote understanding of the developmental needs and characteristics of young adolescents, especially in the English language arts. The award is named for middle level educator Richard Halle of Marshfield, Wisconsin.

Chin is a past president of NCTE and former board member of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. She also served as the senior project consultant for the 2011 Writing Framework for National Assessment of Educational Progress. In 2012, Chin received the NCTE Distinguished Service Award. Since 1981, she has directed the English Teaching Program at UM. Chin received the University's Distinguished Teacher Award in 1987.

"Throughout my career, I have had the great pleasure of teaching, mentoring and collaborating with knowledgeable, creative and compassionate English language arts educators," she said.

Chin has more than 35 years of experience as an English language arts teacher, adult education instructor and teacher educator. She consults nationally and internationally on English language arts standards, curriculum, instruction and assessment.

For more information about the award, including previous winners, visit <http://www.ncte.org/awards/halle>.

Contact: Beverly Ann Chin, professor and chair, UM Department of English, 406-243-2463, beverly.chin@umontana.edu.



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Neil Young to Perform Concert at UM

August 18, 2015

MISSOULA – Rock icon Neil Young will perform Thursday, Oct. 1, at the University of Montana’s Adams Center. Tickets go on sale at 10 a.m. Monday, Aug. 24, at all GrizTix locations, by phone at 1-888-MONTANA and online at <http://www.griztix.com>.

The Missoula concert will kick off the second leg of Young and Promise of the Real’s Rebel Content Tour, which ranges from solo acoustic to full-band acoustic, and full-on rock jams.

Promise of the Real includes artists Lukas and Micah Nelson (vocals, guitar), Anthony Logerfo (drums), Corey McCormick (bass, vocals) and Tato Melgar (percussion). Young and Promise of the Real played together at the Bold Nebraska/Cowboys and Indians Alliance event last year along with the Nelsons’ father, Willie Nelson. They had such an instant synergy that Young invited them to record his new album, “The Monsanto Years,” with him.

The Rebel Content Tour features material from both “The Monsanto Years” and Young’s entire catalog.

Young is hailed as one of rock and roll’s greatest songwriters and performers and has been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

###

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marketing@umproductions.org.



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UM Earns Two Research Awards in State's First Large-Scale Research Initiative

August 18, 2015

MISSOULA – Gov. Steve Bullock, together with University of Montana President Royce Engstrom and Montana University System Commissioner of Higher Education Clay Christian, gathered at UM's Skaggs Building Aug. 18 to announce UM as the recipient of nearly \$4 million in the state's first large-scale research initiative.

"The time to invest in the research of tomorrow is now," Bullock said. "We know there are going to be made-in-Montana solutions that will not only address some of the challenges in our state but indeed challenges across the country, and I dare say even the world. It will not only produce incredible breakthroughs, it will create incredible Montana jobs."

Bullock proposed the \$15 million research initiative in his state budget in the fall of 2014. The 2015 Montana Legislature subsequently passed the initiative with bipartisan support. It is the first state-funded research initiative of its depth and scope, encompassing areas that include agriculture, natural resources and energy, materials and

manufacturing, health and biomedical sciences, and technology and computer science.

The winners were selected from more than 200 proposals statewide. Two UM projects were selected for funding through a competitive process by an advisory panel composed of state legislators and industry and university-system representatives. Funding for the two UM projects will forward traumatic brain injury research and water quality monitoring.

"Today represents a transformative day for the Montana University System as it embarks upon a systematic strengthening of research," Engstrom said. "Research has never been more vibrant at the University of Montana than it is right now. Our faculty members and our researchers who are teacher-scholars deserve the credit for making it as prevalent as it is."

The first project was awarded \$2,234,834. It is led by UM Assistant Research Professor Sarj Patel and addresses traumatic brain injury, a complex health care issue that affects 13 percent of Montana's adult population. Montana ranks second in the nation per capita for TBI. Currently there are no available diagnostic tests to assess recovery and no proven treatments to reduce the cognitive and neurological damage from TBI. The purpose of this research is twofold: Bring together TBI researchers and private companies to create diagnostic tools to directly benefit TBI survivors; and expand clinical services for TBI survivors and veterans at UM's Neural Injury Center by initiating clinical trials based on the technology developed by the research team.

The second project was awarded \$1,292,398. It's led by chemistry Professor Chris Palmer and addresses Montana's water quality monitoring. Montana's economy thrives because of its abundant surface water and groundwater resources. Agriculture, tourism and other mainstays of the economy depend on sustaining these water resources and also remediating those that have been adversely impacted by human activities. The research award will advance new technology to allow continuous monitoring in Montana. The sensors will be capable of detecting aquatic invasive species, organic pollutant and arsenate – a salt of arsenic acid, and will measure the pH and alkalinity of water.

Industry representatives on the advisory panel included Lola Raska, executive director of the Montana Grain Growers Association; Larry Simkins, president and CEO of Washington Companies; and Ron Zook, president and CEO of Swan Valley Medical.

Legislative representatives included Sen. Llew Jones, R-Conrad, and Rep. Ryan Lynch, D-Butte. Engstrom and Montana State University President Waded Cruzado rounded out the advisory panel, which made its recommendations to Christian.

###

Contact: Peggy Kuhr, UM vice president for integrated communications, 406-243-2311, peggy.kuhr@umontana.edu.



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UM Research Professor Lends Expertise on Developing National Goals Related to People with Disabilities

August 18, 2015

MISSOULA – University of Montana Research Professor Rosemary Hughes recently accepted an elite position to serve on the “justice strand” during the National Goals 2015 meeting held Aug. 6-7 in Washington, D.C.

Building on a similar effort in 2003, the National Goals 2015



initiative focuses on the current state of knowledge surrounding citizens with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Experts from around the country were hand-selected to converge in Washington, D.C., to develop national research, practice and policy goals. The meeting was organized into 10 strands, or broad focus areas. Hughes was invited to lend her expertise to the focus area of justice.

Based on civil rights protections guaranteed by laws including the Americans with Disabilities Act, the 2015 goals reflect the nation's commitment to improving outcomes for people with disabilities.

Hughes, a senior researcher at the UM's Rural Institute for Inclusive Communities, is a national leader in research on violence against individuals with disabilities. In a recent review article, she and her colleagues found that in a 10-year period, the prevalence of lifetime interpersonal violence among adults with a disability ranged from 26 percent to 90 percent.

Hughes and her research team currently are working with advisers with intellectual disabilities to develop and nationally test a group prevention program for men and women with disabilities. The program is designed to increase knowledge of healthy relationships, abuse, safety planning as well as enhance safety and communication skills and safety self-efficacy.

Hughes and her research team currently are working with advisers with intellectual disabilities to develop and nationally test a group prevention program for men and women with disabilities. The program is designed to increase knowledge of healthy relationships, abuse, safety planning as well as enhance safety and communication skills and safety self-efficacy.

For more information call Hughes at 406-243-2898 or email rosemary.hughes@umontana.edu.

Contact: Rosemary Hughes, UM Rural Institute for Inclusive Communities research professor, 406-240-4838, rosemary.hughes@umontana.edu.

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Bitterroot College Moves to New Home

August 17, 2015

HAMILTON – Bitterroot College University of Montana will open its new location at 103 S. 9th St. in **Hamilton** on Tuesday, Aug. 18. The new location – in the Westview Building known for its expansive views of the Bitterroot Mountains – is owned by the Hamilton School District.

Bitterroot College UM, formerly located at the Ravalli Entrepreneurship Center on Old Corvallis Road, signed a five-year lease for use of the Westview Building.

“We couldn’t be more excited,” said BC Director Victoria “Tory” Clark. “Our new home should boost enrollment and allow for the continuing growth of our institution.”

BC and the Hamilton School District partnered to upgrade and remodel much of the 1960s-era building as part of the lease agreement. The college’s new 17,000-square-foot space is more than three times the size of the college’s former location and allows for an expanded computer lab, science lab, art studio, learning center and multiple small lecture classrooms.

The area that served as the gymnasium while the building was the Hamilton Middle School will function as a student study and gathering space. BC will share part of its new space with the building’s two other tenants, Ravalli

County Early Head Start and Hamilton High School's Alternative Learning Center.

Classes will start at the new location on Aug. 31. Anyone interested in enrolling or learning more about the college is encouraged to call 406-375-0100 or visit <http://www.umt.edu/bitterroot-college>.

Contact: Victoria Clark, director, Bitterroot College UM, 406-375-0100, victoria.clark@umontana.edu.



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MontanaPBS Team to Film Western Art Installation Near 'Some Like it Hot' Site

August 14, 2015

MISSOULA, MONTANA –

World-famous cowboy artist, Charlie Russell (1864-1926), apparently liking it “hot” – or at least sandy, will return from the ‘Great Divide’ this weekend to pose on Coronado Beach with some of his 1923 friends, albeit a little stiffly.

Beginning at dawn, Friday, Aug. 21, MontanaPBS will be filming acclaimed Western artist Thom Ross as he installs a cast of life-sized, painted plywood cutouts



of 1920s characters on Coronado Beach. After they have been installed, MontanaPBS will film the ways in which sunbathers, surfers and dog walkers, among others, interact with the art. The installation is part of a MontanaPBS documentary-film project, titled "C. M. Russell and the American West," which will premiere in Montana the fall of 2016 and nationally in 2017.

The Coronado/San Diego installation will mimic an illustrated letter that Russell wrote while in California in 1923. New Mexico-based artist Ross will install seven life-sized characters, including an amused image of cowboy Russell observing a California beach scene. The cameras will catch summer of 2015 beachgoers interacting with their century-earlier predecessors.

In 2004, Ross installed a massive 200-character, six-acre tableau of 'Custer's Last Stand' at the Little Big Horn in Montana, and in 2008, had the city of San Francisco abuzz as he re-created a famous 1902 publicity photograph with 108 Indian figures from Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show and installed them on a 200-yard stretch of Ocean Beach, not far from the Golden Gate Bridge.

Ross' work focuses on novel ways of portraying iconic Americans, usually from the Old West. His art seeks to peel back layers of legend to reveal complex relationships between characters, landscape, history, mythology, imagination and drama – in many ways similar to the efforts of the MontanaPBS documentary, which aims to uncover the reality of Russell and the American West.

The MontanaPBS production team has been filming historians, scholars, artists, writers, cowboys and Indians across the West the past two years, piecing together the life story of an iconic American artist who helped shape Western mythology and eventually, the Hollywood film industry.

Staff from San Diego's KPBS-TV will assist in the filming.

MontanaPBS is based at the University of Montana in Missoula, and at Montana State University in Bozeman.

###

Contact: Paul Zalis, MontanaPBS writer and co-producer, 505-500-5707, pzalis@q.com.



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Montana High-Tech Companies Increasing Footprint in State, Hiring UM Students

August 12, 2015

MISSOULA – Montana has quietly increased its footprint in high-tech businesses, growing at a pace that exceeds statewide growth and providing high-paying jobs for University of Montana students and graduates, according to an article published this summer in Montana Business Quarterly.

From rural areas of Montana, companies are doing business with Fortune 500 firms around the world, according to the article “High Growth for High Tech: Fast-Growing, High-Paying Industry Cluster is Outpacing Other Sectors of Montana’s Economy” written by Patrick Barkey, John Baldrige, Christina Henderson and Shannon Furniss.

In Missoula, companies like Advanced Technology Group Missoula Solutions Center, or ATG, are hiring UM alumni and paying competitive salaries. Tom Stergios, vice president of ATG’s Missoula Solutions Center, started the business in 2011, and the company has grown to more than 60 employees. The article says more than half of them are UM graduates from the business school and computer science department.

“ATG is an example of a high-growth technology company that provides an opportunity for students to stay home after they graduate and earn a salary that is competitive nationally,” said Larry Gianchetta, dean of UM’s School of Business Administration. “Tom and I both are very proud of the high percentage of University of Montana graduates who are on ATG’s workforce.”

The article summarizes a UM Bureau of Business and Economic Research study that found that Montana’s high-tech industry is expecting growth rates eight to 10 times of statewide growth. The Montana High Tech Business Alliance, a member-driven group of more than 200 high-tech businesses, asked BBER to collect information and insights from its alliance members so that a better assessment of its economic footprint and its prospects for continued growth could be made.

Other articles in the summer issue of the Montana Business Quarterly include:

- A look at central Montana’s vibrant manufacturing center that supports nearly 500 manufacturing jobs in the Lewistown area.
- An outlook for Montana’s manufacturing industry.
- An article about the economic reach of the Bakken oil fields.
- A look at how restoration of national forests benefits local Montana communities.

The Montana Business Quarterly is published by BBER. Annual subscriptions are available for \$35. For more information or to subscribe, go to <http://www.bber.umt.edu/> or call 406-243-5113.

Contact: Patrick Barkey, director, UM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 406-274-6212, patrick.barkey@business.umt.edu; John Baldrige, BBER director of survey research, 406-243-5113, john.baldrige@business.umt.edu.



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UM to Launch New System for Students with Disabilities to Request Services, Modifications

August 10, 2015

MISSOULA – Disability Services for Students at the University of Montana will fully implement and launch a new web-based database and communication system for students with disabilities at the beginning of spring semester 2016.

The program, Accommodate, will allow UM students who are registered with DSS to view the real-time availability of their coordinators and make appointments online using their Net IDs. Accommodate also will allow students to access their documentation and modification information 24 hours a day, and help faculty securely deliver exams to DSS for students who require testing modifications. The system is compliant with UM's Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility Policy.

“Collaborating with Student Affairs IT, the VETS Office and the Banner team, we spent most of last year

purchasing, customizing and implementing Accommodate,” said Amy Capolupo, DSS director. “Thanks to campus support and the student computer fee, we can roll out a full implementation of the system much sooner than originally anticipated.”

Originally funded by the Montana Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education as part of the Veterans Success initiative, Accommodate is now supported through UM’s student computer fee.

DSS currently is completing a final review of the system, and a group of students with disabilities and faculty members will test it this fall. Testers will receive information and training sessions as well as technical assistance from DSS.

For more information call Capolupo at 406-243-2243 or email amy.capolupo@umontana.edu. More details on Accommodate are available online at <https://www.symplicity.com/products/accommodate.html>.

Contact: Mika Watanabe, coordinator, Disability Services for Students, 406-243-6535, mika.watanabe@umontana.edu.



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Princeton Review Names UM Among 'Best 380 Colleges'

August 07, 2015

MISSOULA – The University of Montana again made the annual list of top four-year colleges and universities in North America by the Princeton Review.

“The Best 380 Colleges: 2016 Edition” was released Aug. 4. The rankings are based on surveys of 136,000 students nationwide. The 80-question survey asked students about academics, administration, campus life and the student body.

According to the 2016 edition, “While [UM] maintains a fantastic liberal arts program, students especially laud the wildlife biology, forestry, physical therapy and forensic anthropology departments. Moreover, undergrads at Montana are highly complimentary of their teachers who are generally ‘helpful, engaging and accessible.’”

Annually published since 1992, the annual Princeton Review ranking includes detailed profiles of each school and ratings in a variety of areas, such as academics, campus life and tuition and aid.

To read more about how UM ranked this year,

visit <http://www.princetonreview.com/schools/1023574/college/university-montana>.

Contact: UM Office of the President, 406-243-2311, prestalk@umontana.edu.



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UM Student Group Leader Wins Executive Director of the Year Award

August 07, 2015

MISSOULA – University of Montana alumna Miranda Fox, of **Coeur d’Alene, Idaho**, recently was awarded the St. Jude Up ‘til Dawn Executive Director of the Year Award.

St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital’s exclusive fundraising organization, ALSAC, awarded Fox the distinguished honor in Memphis, Tennessee, earlier this month.

“I was ecstatic to say the least,” Fox said when she learned of the award. “I have attended the St. Jude Collegiate Leadership Seminar the previous two summers and was always in awe of those students and schools being recognized



for their achievements – ‘big fish’ schools such as Michigan State, LSU and Memphis. Even though I wasn't present during the award, I remember how it felt to sit there before, and to know that Montana was finally on the map was very exciting.”

St. Jude Up 'til Dawn is a student-led, student-run philanthropic program that focuses on raising funds and awareness across college campuses for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. There are 175 universities nationwide that participate in St. Jude Up 'til Dawn annually, raising \$2.4 million for St. Jude patients. Up 'til Dawn was started at UM in 2011 and since has blossomed into an annual campuswide event.

“Miranda went above and beyond this last year because not only did she believe in raising money, but also in growing the UM program,” said Meghan McDowell, the ALSAC St. Jude Children's Research Hospital's regional development representative who nominated Fox for the award. “Miranda's communication skills are impeccable, she always has everyone's best interest in mind and she considered every detail of the campaign.”

At UM, 13 student executive board members work on the Up 'til Dawn fundraiser. Their focus is to rally the campus and community to raise funds on behalf of St. Jude. Each November, the student organization hosts an overnight event on campus where student fundraisers sacrifice a night of sleep in honor of the many sleepless nights St. Jude patients and their families go through.

“The University of Montana's 2015 St. Jude Up 'til Dawn program gained national attention, and their success is a true testament to the leadership of Miranda,” McDowell said. “Miranda's ability to inspire both her peers and the community is remarkable. We are blessed to have her as a supporter of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.”

Students who join the executive board learn the basics of fundraising, community sponsorship, event and logistics planning, and recruitment. Under Fox's leadership, UM Up 'til Dawn raised more than \$47,742 for the hospital – almost tripling the amount raised during the 2013-14 event.

“It felt great to reach our fundraising goal this spring,” Fox said. “But for the news of our hard effort to trickle all the

way down to Memphis takes it to a whole new level of 'job well done.'”

Fox is a 2015 graduate of UM. She now works in Portland, Oregon, for R2C group as an analyst.

For more information email McDowell at Meghan.McDowell-McGough@stjude.org.

Contact: Emily Plant, associate professor and student-group adviser, UM School of Business Administration, 406-243-4893, emily.plant@umontana.edu; Miranda Fox, UM alumna, mmmmfox22@gmail.com.



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Montana Geriatric Education Center Wins Grant at White House Conference on Aging

August 07, 2015

MISSOULA – The Montana Geriatric Education Center at the University of Montana now will be able to educate more Montana health care professionals, direct care workers and caregivers about the needs of geriatric patients thanks to a grant from the Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program.

Health and Human Service Secretary Sylvia Burwell announced the award during the White House Conference on Aging held July 13 in Washington, D.C. At the conference, 44 organizations in 29 states received more than \$35 million in grants.

The goal of the grants is to support quality care for older Americans. In order to prepare the health care workforce to respond to issues associated with advancing age, awardees identified the specific interprofessional geriatrics education and training needs of their communities and developed a program responsive to those needs.

The Montana Geriatric Education Center will first receive nearly \$683,000, which can be renewed for two additional years for a possible award total of \$2.1 million. Working in collaboration with RiverStone Health and St. Vincent Healthcare in Billings and the Mountain Pacific Quality Health Foundation in Helena, the MTGEC will use the grant to implement seven initiatives, which will provide education and training for health care professionals, direct care workers and caregivers. The training aims to improve the quality of care for Montana's aging population. MTGEC is housed in UM's College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences and is directed by Gayle Hudgins.

For more information call MTGEC at 406-243-2480 or visit <http://health.umt.edu/mtgec/>.

Contact: Terry Egan, associate director, UM Montana Geriatric Education Center, 406-243-2480, terry.egan@mso.umt.edu.



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UM to Honor Four Distinguished Alumni at Homecoming

August 05, 2015

MISSOULA – Four outstanding University of Montana graduates will receive 2015 Distinguished Alumni Awards during Homecoming weekend festivities on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 25-26. The awards are the highest honor presented by UM's Alumni Association.

This year's distinguished alumni are John Grotzinger, M.S. '81, of **San Marino, Calif.**; Jennifer F. Isern '89 of **New Delhi, India**; Sheila MacDonald Stearns '68, M.A. '69, Ed.D. '83, of **Missoula**; and Sidney R. Thomas, J.D. '78, of **Billings**.

Grotzinger, who received a master's degree in geology at UM, is the mission leader and project scientist for NASA's Mars Science Laboratory Mission and the Fletcher Jones Professor of Geology at California Institute of Technology. He has conducted field research on every continent except Antarctica and now directs a team of more than 400 scientists as they explore Mars via the Curiosity rover. Grotzinger has fulfilled several appointments at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, including Waldemar Lindgren

Distinguished Scholar, director of the Earth Resources Laboratory and Schrock Professor of Earth Sciences. His awards include the Presidential Young Investigator Award of the National Science Foundation; the Donath Medal, recognizing a scientist under age 36 for outstanding original research marking a major advance in earth sciences; the Henno Martin Medal from the Geological Society of Namibia; and the Charles Doolittle Walcott Medal from the National Academy of Sciences. In 2014, he received the NASA Group Achievement Award for the Mars Science Laboratory Mission, the NASA Outstanding Public Leadership Medal and the Roy Chapman Andrews Explorer Award.



 Isern, who received a bachelor's degree in political science from UM, is senior manager with the Finance and Markets Global Practice in the Asia Pacific region for the World Bank and the International Finance Corporation. With 27 years of international finance experience across more than 65 countries, she is a global expert in financial sector development, including access to finance for the poorest populations. She previously served as regional manager of access to finance for South Asia with the International Finance Corporation and served as a visiting professor at Princeton University. For 13 years, she worked for the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor based in the World Bank Group, including serving in the management team, leading work in Africa and China, and launching several global initiatives. With CARE International, she launched and managed projects in microfinance, community development, and girls' education in Africa. Isern has published widely on international issues, financial sector development and financial inclusion, and is a founding member of the board of directors for PAMIGA, a network of rural microfinance institutions that reaches 1.2 million rural people in Africa.

Stearns, who earned a bachelor's degree in English, master's degree in history and doctorate of education at UM, was Montana's longest-serving commissioner of higher education and is a highly respected advocate for educational opportunity. As a vice president of the University of Montana, she led the external relations of the University, including legislative, alumni and foundation relations. As chancellor of the University of Montana-Western for six years, she supported faculty as they led a complete transformation of curriculum from the typical semester structure to the only block scheduling program offered by a public college in the country. As president of Wayne State University in Nebraska, she maintained strong support and morale through a period of recession and budget cuts. As Montana's commissioner of higher education for nine years, she built a stronger alignment with K-12 education, a focus that now is a nationally recommended best practice. Stearns was named Commissioner Emerita by the Board of Regents in 2012.



Thomas, who earned a juris doctorate at UM, is chief judge of the Ninth Circuit



Court of Appeals, the largest judicial circuit in the country. The third Montanan to serve as chief judge in the history of the Ninth Circuit, Thomas is the administrator for Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, California, Arizona, Hawaii, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. He was nominated to serve as a judge on the Ninth Circuit by President Clinton in 1995 and confirmed by the U.S. Senate in 1996. In the past 20 years, he has served as the en banc coordinator and capital case coordinator for the Circuit. He also serves on the National Committee on Information Technology and chairs the Court of Appeals' Committee on Automation and Technology. He was interviewed by President Barack Obama and placed on the short list for the U.S. Supreme Court in 2010. Previously, Thomas practiced law with the firm of Moulton, Bellingham, Longo, and Mather in Billings. For 15 years, he was an adjunct instructor in law at Rocky Mountain College, from which he received an honorary doctorate of law in 1998.

The public is invited to attend a panel discussion featuring all four Distinguished Alumni Award recipients at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 25, in the University Center Ballroom on the UM campus. An awards ceremony and reception will follow.

Contact: Jodi Moreau, events coordinator/board liaison, UM Office of Alumni Relations and Alumni Association, 406-243-6124, jodi.moreau@umontana.edu.



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UM Family Medicine Residency Program Receives \$1.7M Grant for Primary Care Training

August 05, 2015

MISSOULA – The University of Montana’s Family Medicine Residency of Western Montana was one of 32 awardees nationally to receive a \$1.7 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The purpose of the grant is to strengthen the primary health care workforce while improving health care delivery and outcomes in rural and underserved areas of Montana.

“With 53 out of 56 Montana counties underserved in primary



health care, there is an urgent need to focus on building a rural health care workforce that can meet the needs of our rural Montana communities,” said Rebecca Morgan, FMRWM project and communications manager.

The grant funding will provide training and team-building activities for both the residency program and partner hospitals in developing sustainable health care teams and transforming health care delivery.

Along with the FMRWM, four Critical Access Hospitals and communities in Western Montana are participating in the grant program, including Community Hospital of **Anaconda**, Marcus Daly Memorial Hospital of **Hamilton**, Providence St. Joseph Medical Center in **Polson** and St. Luke Community Healthcare in **Ronan**.

This five-year, primary-care “Team Training for Transformation” grant will focus on training and engaging local teams to promote integrated, coordinated health care, improving patient experience, optimizing the use of information technology and improving health care performance at a lower cost. The ultimate goal is to enhance the health of local populations through a collaborative effort between rural communities and FMRWM.

As residents train in the four rural communities, they will be included in team-training activities, in addition to their direct patient-care experiences. One of FMRWM’s goals is to ensure program graduates enter the workforce understanding the importance of delivering health care in a team-based model that best serves the patient and the community.

“This is an excellent opportunity for not only our residents, but also our program to have an impact in strengthening our primary care workforce in Montana,” said Dr. Ned Vasquez, FMRWM program director and grant co-principal investigator. “This grant will assist us greatly in furthering our mission to ‘serve patients and communities in the rural and underserved areas of Montana’ and we look forward to the next five years.”

Each of the involved communities will select and collaborate through improvement projects that engage their health care professionals, staff, community stakeholders and family medicine residents in team-based models specific to the resources and needs of the community.

“There is an incredible sense of pride and independence in our rural communities, and we want to use grant training dollars to help these highly motivated folks reach the community health goals they select,” said Dr. Frank Reed, FMRWM rural director and grant co-principal investigator. “It’s all about maximizing and enhancing local resources for better rural health.”

FMRWM's desired outcome is that the initial project sites continue practicing lessons learned as the team members increase job satisfaction while experiencing better quality and efficiency in their health care delivery systems. Pending the experiences and outcomes of the project, FMRWM is hopeful this team-based training model could be adaptable and scalable to other rural Montana communities. The primary care training grant goes through June 2020.

About Family Medicine Residency of Western Montana

The FMRWM, headquartered in Missoula, is a three-year family medicine residency program sponsored by the University of Montana and affiliated with the University of Washington Family Medicine Residency Network. The program's three sponsoring hospitals in Western Montana include Kalispell Regional Healthcare, Providence St. Patrick Hospital and Community Medical Center. Additionally, the program works with an extensive rural training network of nine sites, including Blackfeet Community Hospital, Northwest Community Health Center, Providence St. Joseph Medical Center, Clark Fork Valley Hospital, St. Luke Community Healthcare, Community Physicians Group-Stevensville, Marcus Daly Memorial Hospital, Community Hospital of Anaconda and Barrett Hospital and Healthcare. The program welcomed its inaugural class of 10 residents in July 2013 with the first class graduating in June 2016. FMRWM is dedicated to training family physicians capable of providing comprehensive and transformed care for the rural and underserved areas in Montana. For more information visit <http://health.umt.edu/fmrwm/>.

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