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COLLEGE, HIGH SCHOOL, VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL TEACHERS MAY ATTEND CBL CONFERENCE MAY 10

MISSOULA --

College, high school and vocational-technical teachers as well as students, school administrators and others interested in education may attend a one-day conference dealing with competency-based learning May 10 at the University of Montana in Missoula.

The conference, entitled "Competency-Based Learning: Pros and Cons," will feature discussions by those in favor of and opposed to competency-based learning as an educational tool, according to Dr. William H. Fisher, a professor of education at UM, who is local conference coordinator. The program is sponsored by the American Association for Higher Education (AAHE), an organization headquartered in Washington, D.C.

Discussing opposing viewpoints will be Dr. Kevin Bunnell, Boulder, Colo., associate director of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE), who will focus on "Competency-Based Learning: Pro" during a morning program, and Dr. John G. Watkins, professor of psychology at UM, who will discuss "Competency-Based Learning: Con" in the afternoon.

A presentation by a reaction panel will follow Bunnell's program in the morning, and teachers and other interested persons attending the conference may participate in an open discussion with Bunnell and Watkins following Watkins' afternoon lecture.

Members of the morning reaction panel will be Reid Stevens, personnel director for Missoula County high schools; Maxine Johnson, associate professor of business administration and director of the UM Bureau of Business and Economic Research; Dr. J. Francis Rummel, dean of the UM School of Education; Dr. Ray Whitfield, Cheney, Wash., dean of graduate studies at Eastern Washington State College, and Paul Coughlin, Kalispell, instructor of English at Flathead Valley Community College.

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Commenting on competency-based learning, Fisher said: "In one way or another, competency-based learning represents emphasis upon definite or specific knowledge in education, compared with generalities or nonspecific methodology in education."

Fisher said preregistration for the conference is encouraged but not required.

Advanced registration is \$4 for AAHE members, \$10 for nonmembers and \$1 for students.

Registration from 8:30-9:30 a.m. May 10 in the University Center will be \$8 for AAHE members, \$12 for nonmembers and \$2 for students.

Participants may register in advance by writing Fisher in care of the UM School of Education, Missoula, Mt., 59801. Those interested also may obtain additional information by phoning him at 243-4263.

Dr. Ernest Hartung, president of the University of Idaho, Moscow, is AAHE regional coordinator.