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University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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UM news

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IMMEDIATELY

MISSOULA'S EXCELLENCE FUND CAMPAIGN REACHES 71 PERCENT OF GOAL

MISSOULA--

The Missoula portion of the University of Montana's Excellence Fund campaign, UM's annual appeal for private support, has reached 71 percent of its goal, according to figures released by campaign co-chairman Jack Hoon at a solicitor report luncheon held recently.

A total of \$42,930 has been given or pledged to the local Excellence Fund campaign since its kickoff on Nov. 15. In reporting to the local business people who have been canvassing the community, Hoon stated that a total of 91 calls had been made to date. The calls resulted in 37 gifts or pledges. Another 49 firms will be considering gifts either at December board meetings or by forwarding the request to the home office. To date only five firms have refused the Excellence Fund appeal.

Hoon was quite pleased with the overall response to the Excellence Fund campaign. He noted that while 71 percent of the money had already been raised, only 55 percent of the calls had been completed and only 25 percent of the firms had made a final decision.

Hoon joined with the other members of the Excellence Fund steering committee in urging the solicitors to complete all planned calls and to follow up with firms currently considering a gift. "If the initial momentum we have gained is maintained, we can reach our goal before Christmas," Hoon exhorted. "What better Christmas present to give the University of Montana than to reach its local goal on its first try."

(over)

EXCELLENCE FUND--add one

Allan M. Vannini, UM's director of development, reported that the University is receiving very positive feedback from the community and various service clubs where the steering committee has made its presentation. He also thanked members of the media, especially KPAX, KECI, KUFM, KYLT and The Missoulian for their special coverage of the campaign.

An unanticipated result of the local effort was that an additional \$2,000 has been given by individuals and corporations who were not scheduled to be solicited, Vannini said. "This outpouring of support is most appreciated by the University," he added.

The solicitors were also updated on the national Excellence Fund effort. Vannini reported that the Excellence Fund has raised in excess of \$110,000 (including Montana contributions). "We've been receiving checks and pledges from people as far away as Connecticut and California," he said. "If we continue at this rate we'll not only reach our \$175,000 national goal, but we'll double the number of alumni givers for the second straight year."

The emphasis of the Missoula Excellence Fund campaign is to provide funds to improve the University's student recruitment efforts. Funds are also used for alumni programs, equipment and library purchases, faculty development, scholarships and special presidential projects such as the return of the UM marching band and the Montana Repertory Theatre.

For more information contact Allan M. Vannini at the University of Montana Foundation, Missoula, MT 59812 or call 243-2593.

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