Session Overview
This session will explore innovative efforts in higher education to prepare engaged citizens. Discussion will focus on how General Education at UM could be enhanced, and the processes by which we could facilitate these enhancements. What is the role of General Education, or a Liberal Education, in today's society? How could General Education at UM be enhanced, and what are the processes by which we could facilitate these enhancements?

Keynote Address
9:15-10:00 a.m. in the UC Theater

“Fostering Engaged Citizenship and Professional Success: The Role of General Education” by Debra Humphreys, Vice President for Policy and Public Engagement, Association of American Colleges & Universities

Setting a broad context for the conference, Debra Humphreys will present a vision for quality liberal education in the 21st century. Within the framework of AAC&U's Liberal Education and America's Promise (LEAP) initiative, she will discuss the changing economy and societal challenges that present an urgent need to prepare all college students with liberal education outcomes. She will also highlight how colleges and universities are changing the designs of general education to ensure that all students are prepared for a lifetime of success in work and in life.

Panel Discussion
10:15-11:15 a.m. in the UC North Ballroom

Panelists
- Anthony Johnstone, Associate Professor, Alexander Blewett III, School of Law
- Nate McCrady, Associate Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy
- Kim Reiser, Associate Professor, Missoula College; Chair of Gen. Ed. Committee
- Rob Tuck, Assistant Professor, College of Humanities and Sciences
- Nadia White, Associate Professor, School of Journalism
- Tobin Shearer, Associate Professor, College of Humanities and Sciences (Moderator)

Questions
1. What can we do in higher education to foster more informed and engaged citizens?
2. What is the role of general education or a liberal education in today's society?
3. What do you see as the strengths and weaknesses of general education at UM?
4. How would you describe an ideal general education program?
5. What are the processes by which we can facilitate general education enhancements?
Breakout Sessions
11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. in UC 326, 327, 329, UC North Ballroom

General Education for the 21st Century (Brock Tessman and Daisy Rooks, Moderators; UC North Ballroom and UC 326)
- What types of General Education or Liberal Education requirements are relevant to the 21st century, (that will produce informed and engaged citizens)?
- How do we develop a greater focus on real-world, “unscripted” problems (i.e., a more applied focus that is related to students’ lives)
- What is the role of foreign language in General Education?
- How do we foster stronger integration among General Education courses, and between General Education courses and the major?
- What should the role of the GLI be in General Education at UM? How can we promote GLI, or another type of signature curriculum for General Education?

Evaluating the Effectiveness of General Education (Beverly Chin, Moderator; UC 327)
- How will we demonstrate that the General Education program is meeting our institutional outcomes, as well as the outcomes that are valued by students and employers?
- How could General Education be designed to increase student retention and graduation?
- Are there ways in which advising for General Education could be improved?
- What methods could be used to gather meaningful data about General Education?
- How can we use our current NWCCU (Accreditation) project to improve General Education and help us fulfill our institutional mission?

Developing a Process for General Education Enhancement at UM (John Deboer, Moderator; UC 329)
- How can we continue to facilitate dialogue about General Education across campus?
- How do we promote and incentivize more interdisciplinary approaches in General Education?
- How do we foster more team teaching?
- Are the ways we can involve multiple constituents (including faculty, staff, students, alumni, and employers) in these discussions?
- How do we make General Education changes financially feasible?