Bitterroot College Advisory Council Meeting
Director’s Report / Victoria Clark
Wednesday, January 21, 2015

Related Supplemental Materials:
1. College Enrollment Update – Spring 2015
2. Continuing Education Enrollment – Final Fall 2014
3. Continuing Education Schedule – Spring 2015

Communications & Comments:

1. College enrollment for fall 2014 totaled 112.3 FTE, up 9.5 FTE (9 percent) from fall 2013, however fall 2014 headcount totaled 198, down 10 (5 percent) from fall 2013 headcount. Increase in FTE is attributed to students increasing their credit load at the BC and to the addition of Welding CAS. Decrease in headcount is attributed to an improved local, state, and regional economy. Notably, Early College Dual Enrollment for fall 2014 accounted for 5.1 FTE and 15 headcount; these numbers were up 1 FTE and 1 headcount from fall 2013. Dual Credit enrollment on local high school campuses totaled 40 students (duplicated) and 3 courses. Dual credit partners for fall 2014 included Darby HS and Hamilton HS. The Bitterroot College facilitated no Dual Credit enrollment in fall 2013 (although Missoula College facilitated 1 Dual Credit course at Stevensville HS in fall 2013, with 19 students participating). Note: Dual Credit at Florence-Carlton HS was facilitated by Missoula College for fall 2014; enrollment was 5 students in 1 course. No Dual Credit was facilitated by either Bitterroot College or Missoula College for fall 2014 at either Stevensville HS or Victor HS.

With respect to spring 2015 college enrollment, the only number presently available is FTE. Spring 2015 FTE is currently at 107.4 (1-18-2015), up from 93.7 FTE at this time spring 2014 (1-13-2014).

2. Continuing Education enrollment for fall 2014 numbered 130 duplicated students, up from 109 for fall 2013. Workforce Training Continuing Education leading to an Industry Recognized Credential (IRC) enrolled 10 CNA students and completed nine CNA students and enrolled 7 CDL students and completed 3 CDL students (training still in progress for three CDL students).

3. New website launched in early September is still evolving. Recently added a Faculty section, reorganized Programs and Courses section, and redesigned Home page.


5. Strengthening Workforce Alignment in Montana’s Manufacturing and Energy Industries (SWAMMEI) Grant has been rebranded as RevUp Montana. Bitterroot College is on track to meet Welding and CDL participant targets; however Oil & Gas and Advanced Manufacturing participant targets are behind. The delivery of Oil & Gas training, which was originally scheduled to start in summer 2014, is now slated to start late spring 2015. Delayed start date was due to City College’s (Billings) difficulty in finding a program director for the training (BC Oil & Gas training is dependent on delivery from City College). Enrollment in Advance manufacturing programs has lagged as online-delivery of the training via Flathead Valley Community College (FVCC) has proven a tough sell to local residents. Too, recruitment for fall 2014 Advanced Manufacturing students was not robust and did not commence until late July 2014 – too little and too late for a successful enrollment campaign. Recruitment was delayed due to process issues involving program approval. Recruitment was not robust, as recruitment dollars were centrally pooled rather than distributed to individual campuses. With RevUp Montana now launched (outcome of the centrally pooled recruitment money), recruitment for Advanced Manufacturing and all other RevUp programs should greatly improve.
Regarding online Advanced Manufacturing being a difficult sell to local residents, the BC will be taking a new direction for this programing starting spring 2015. Due to an unexpected $100,000 donation from the Rob & Terry Ryan Foundation at year-end 2014, the BC will be focusing on developing and delivering a 3-D printing curriculum associated with Advanced Manufacturing. This new 3-D curriculum will include a college-credit 1-semester Certificate of Technical Science, a non-credit continuing education short course, and access to a new 3-D Fabrication Laboratory (Fab Lab) for entrepreneurs interested in printing product prototypes. The BC will partner with the Missoula College Applied Computing Department while combining RevUp Montana and Ryan Foundation monies to develop and deliver this new program.

6. Montana HealthCARE – Statewide coordination meeting is set for March 26 in Helena. BC Director and Workforce Programs Coordinator (Roch Turner) will attend. It is anticipated that BC Healthcare Transformation Specialist will be identified in April or May.

7. The Bitterroot College (BC) submitted a substantive change report to the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) describing its transition to offering more than 50 percent of an academic program in early November 2014. There has been no feedback from NWCCU on the report to date.

8. Due to limited time, the Bitterroot College Director has suspended actively exploring NSF Grant and NEH Grant opportunities to assist with science and humanities capacity building. With respect to exploration of TRiO grant options to assist with the provision of student support services, the latest information is that because of the embedded status of Bitterroot College (as well as Missoula College), the Bitterroot College (and Missoula College) is not eligible for TRiO because the UM already has a TRiO program (an institution cannot have more than one TRiO program). Exploration of TRiO options continues.