DATE: October 6, 2014

TO: Campus Community

FROM: Royce C. Engstrom, President

RE: Our Commitment to Accessible Technology

I am pleased to announce that the University of Montana has adopted a new policy on Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility. The policy, effective immediately, was adopted in accordance with a resolution agreement we signed last March with the Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights. The resolution agreement was vetted by Staff Senate, Faculty Senate and ASUM in accordance with our tradition of shared governance.

UM has a decades-long history of leading the region in providing access to education. This new policy will ensure that we continue to be a leader in accessibility issues.

Much of the work of the University is conducted online or through other electronic delivery. Just as we want our buildings to be accessible, the technology we use now needs attention.

Electronic and information technology (EIT) can be a great tool for individuals who have a disability, provided the resources are produced in accordance with accessibility guidelines. At UM, we are committed to providing equal and effective electronic and information technology access to all individuals. This means we must create, obtain and maintain electronic documents, websites, media, software and hardware in a manner that ensures it is accessible to individuals with disabilities.

In the coming weeks and months, you will see more information about the implementation of this policy and efforts to remove barriers to access. If you produce, share or participate in any form of electronic or information technology, you carry the responsibility to comply with the EIT accessibility policy. UM offers training and support to help you.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. Together, we can continue to make the University of Montana a place where all students can reach their educational goals.

For more information, please visit umt.edu/accessibility. If you have questions, please contact EIT Accessibility Policy Implementation Coordinator Janet Sedgley at eita@umontana.edu or (406) 243-3482.