

UM's Tech Transfer Notes
March 2011
Strategic Discussion Outcomes, Entrepreneurship

Dear Colleague –

This note serves as a follow-up to my January communication regarding efforts to develop a “strategic framework” around the University’s technology transfer and economic development activities.

Since that time, the Office of Research and Development hosted a focus group discussion which resulted in a *SWOT analysis* and some suggested *Strategic Thrusts*, as they apply to the intersection of Entrepreneurship and Technology Transfer at The University of Montana. Many stakeholders participated in the focus group, including students, faculty, administrators, government officials, local entrepreneurs, and leaders from several regional economic development organizations. The two hour discussion was quite lively, and provided new energy behind some of the opportunities we need to capitalize on.

For your review, the compiled focus group discussion outcomes have been attached as two separate documents:

- “UM Entrepreneurship SWOT Analysis...”
- “UM Entrepreneurship Strategic Thrusts...”

If upon review you have any suggestions, please feel free to pass them along. Also, I ask that you consider participating in one the remaining two focus group discussions coming up in April:

- April 13, 9:00 - 11:00 AM, UM Campus. Topic: **Public/Private Partnerships**
- April 19, 9:00 - 11:00 AM, UM Campus. Topic: **Research**

Ultimately, the discussion outcomes of all three sessions (Entrepreneurship, Public/Private Partnerships, and Research) will be compiled into several strategic thrusts, which will serve as the future focus of the University’s technology transfer and economic development efforts. We are still on target to complete the planning process by Summer of 2011, so thanks to all of you who have made this happen!

Best wishes for a great Spring Break!

Joe

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