

President's Sector

Presented by President Sheila M. Stearns

Montana Campus Compact

Montana Campus Compact is a fully self-supported unit of the University of Montana working with UM and 16 other campuses statewide to offer and support programs advancing the public purposes of higher education by deepening campuses' abilities to improve community life and educate students for civic and social responsibility. Campus Compact generates an average of \$638,000 in federal national service grant funds to UM annually. For the past 24 years, Campus Compact has provided leadership in the state assisting campuses, including UM, to build infrastructure and systems that maintain service learning, volunteerism, national service and collaborative campus-community partnerships to bolster student learning and meet community needs. Last year, UM Professor Robin Saha won the national Campus Compact' Civically Engaged Faculty Award, the first Montana professor to win this prestigious award. Campus Compact provides faculty development training in partnership its campus affiliates, like UM, to support service learning and the scholarship of engagement. Campus Compact's national service programming focuses on college student access, helping first generation and low-income students attend college, and supporting their school success. Last year alone, through our partnerships with 17 Montana colleges and universities, Campus Compact programs reached over 20,000 disadvantaged Montana youth engaging them in tutoring, financial literacy, college campus visits, FAFSA support and summer food programs. In the past five years at UM, Campus Compact scholarship and awards programs provided \$94,000 to UM students helping to reduce college expenses, and 45 students in national service have earned over \$185,000 in education awards. Campus Compact wants to build on existing partnerships with UM's TRiO and Upward Bound programs to maximize the full potential of AmeriCorps and VISTA programs to support the campus' ability to attract and support first-generation and low-income students be successful at UM. The presence of Montana Campus Compact at UM helps to elevate UM's leadership role in the state for higher education community engagement.

Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action; Title IX

The Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Office strongly contributes to UM's strategic vision. It upholds UM's nondiscrimination policies, it provides education and consultation on equitable policy and practice, it collaborates across the campus and the community to provide comprehensive support and effective response to individuals experiencing discrimination, including sexual violence, and of course monitors UM's compliance with federal civil rights laws. The past five years was marked by extraordinary changes within the EOAA office, on campus, in Missoula and

in the nation. As noted by EOAA statistics presented in their report, there is a strong and growing internal and external demand for services, data tracking, and intervention by the trained staff in the EOAA. EOAA marks from the APASP committee were extremely high, noting clear potential for expansion of services, outreach and strategic vision if EOAA, at a minimum, maintains the current staffing level. EOAA is in a position to provide leadership to help develop broader institutional values related to diversity recruitment, retention and equal opportunity.

Legal Counsel

The UM Office of Legal Counsel provides, manages and coordinates quality legal services to the University and its affiliate campuses. The report confirmed that UMLC is highly efficient. UMLC will continue to strive to keep up with the daily demands of the office, meanwhile carving out time for providing proactive resources for risk reduction and compliance to the campus community.

Internal Audit

Internal Audit provides a service to all campuses of the University of Montana – we assist management in identifying the critical elements of internal controls, good business practices and areas where compliance can be strengthened. We also provide an independent review and reporting of accountability and criteria as defined by management. The University of Montana’s mission statement (for all four campuses) indicates:

“The University enhances its programs through continuous quality review for improvement and remains fully accountable to the citizenry through annual audits and performance evaluations.”

Internal Audit plays a key role in this accountability and independent review of operations and performance for all University of Montana units/campuses/departments. Whether internal or external entities perform these reviews, Internal Audit will continue to be responsive to the University of Montana’s missions and goals, assisting management as needed.

With the many changes occurring, Internal Audit’s independent reviews will be more important than ever for management as we move forward. The reviews can focus on outcome measurements, appropriate controls (noting weaknesses if applicable) and recommendations for efficiencies – again if applicable.

The President’s Office

The mission of the President's Office staff is to support the President's initiatives and to assist the University in fulfilling its overall mission. The staff strives to maintain

open lines of communication by responding to the inquiries and concerns of students, employees, and members of the public. Their goal is to create a friendly, approachable, and positive environment for all.

The primary functions of the Office are to provide support to the President and President's Cabinet Members; to plan and executive events for the campus and broader University communities; and to communicate with internal and external stakeholders.

The President's Office serves all members of the campus community – employees and students – and members of the external community, including the Board of Regents, members of the Missoula and Montana communities, alumni, donors, prospective students, legislators and other government officials (city, state, and national levels), and affiliated organizations such as the other units within the Montana University System and other Universities around the country.

The President's Office was placed in category 2 – “Consider for Development and/or Modification” – and no specific recommendations were provided from the APASP Task Force. Given the staffing changes to the office due to VSO, the remaining staff members will be looking at ways to restructure the office. Staff will also be working with the new President to ensure that any restructuring meets the needs of the new administration. Any and all changes will be done with the main objective of continuing quality service to the campus and community and implementing the President's goals.