

THE UNIVERSITY *of* MONTANA WESTERN



ANNOUNCING A NATIONAL SEARCH FOR THE
PROVOST AND VICE CHANCELLOR
FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
at **The UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA WESTERN**

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The University of Montana Western has launched a national search for the **Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs**. The Search Committee invites applications, nominations, and expressions of interest for the next academic leader to advance the institution and its experiential-learning mission as the only public college in the country to offer a block scheduling program. The Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs reports directly to the Chancellor of the University of Montana Western, Dr. Beth Weatherby, who took office in January 2015.



THE OPPORTUNITY

“The University of Montana Western differentiates itself and achieves academic excellence by sustaining a culture of concentrated experiential education.”

The university’s mission is unusually clear. The University of Montana Western is unique for one distinct reason: Experience One. This innovative approach (in which students take only one class at a time) encourages real-world, hands-on experience in learning.

Montana Western offers a challenging learning experience from nationally recognized professors that provides a first class education and the beginnings of a life of learning. Experience One, now celebrating 10 years of phenomenal success, has led to record growth in

enrollment, retention, and completion. A visionary provost will have the opportunity to work with faculty and staff to build on a solid platform of success.

The Provost is a member of the Chancellor’s Cabinet and works closely with the Chancellor and the Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance.

As the chief academic officer of the university, the Provost is responsible for the integrity and vitality of the academic enterprise. Reporting to the Provost are 10 academic departments, the Dean of Outreach and Research, the Registrar/Director of Institutional Research, the Office of Student Success (Advising/Learning Center/TRIO), and the Director of the Library.



The Provost will:

- Oversee the hiring, development, tenure, promotion, and regular evaluation of all faculty; oversee hiring and regular evaluation of academic administrators
- Assist with development of the faculty Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) and assure that all CBA provisions are adhered to by the administration and the faculty
- Oversee curricular reviews and development and approval of new curricula
- Participate in implementation of the strategic plan.
- Co-chair the Academic and Administrative Council to facilitate cross-area concerns and assure that projects align with and support the strategic plan



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Vision Statement

The University of Montana Western transforms students and its greater community through experiential teaching and civic, environmental, and multicultural engagement. Students learn by engaging in the authentic practice of a discipline under the expert guidance of faculty members. Student success is maximized by providing the means for each student to identify and achieve their educational goals.

- Represent Montana Western's Division of Academic Affairs within the Affiliated Campuses of the University of Montana (UM) and within the Montana University System (MUS)
- Regularly attend Chief Academic Officer tele-conferences and meetings at the UM and MUS levels
- Cooperate with the Dean of Students to oversee student disciplinary processes related to academic misconduct
- Oversee the appointment of cross-campus committees and task forces
- Oversee accreditation, assessment, strategic planning, research, and general education
- Participate in fundraising in support of Experience One
- Encourage faculty to engage in the scholarship of teaching and learning, especially in the area of experiential learning

QUALIFICATIONS

The new Provost will understand the university culture and be a person of vision and unquestioned integrity as well as a strategic thinker. The new Provost will embrace the unique opportunity provided by Experience One and be passionate and optimistic about the future for Montana Western.

A doctoral degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education is required. An academic leader who has achieved tenure and full professorship is preferred.

In addition, the new Provost:

- Has experience as an academic administrator and has managed academic budgets and processes, including tenure and promotion processes
- Is student, then faculty oriented and understands the unique teaching-learning environment

- Demonstrates strong communication skills in speaking, listening, and writing
- Exemplifies trust, equanimity, humor, and respect
- Attends to detail and uses data for effective and efficient decision making
- Has a collaborative style and has a record of faculty advocacy
- Is experienced in strategic planning, program review, and assessment
- Has participated in regional and specialized accreditation processes
- Is accomplished in interpersonal relationships and team building and operates comfortably in a collective bargaining and shared governance environment
- Has partnered and collaborated with student affairs, finance, and administration offices in a university setting

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The University of Montana Western

Founded in 1893 as the Montana State Normal School, the University of Montana Western has a long-standing legacy in state higher education. A small university with a big difference, Montana Western values experiential learning. Highly innovative in the way students are taught, the university has a rich tradition of providing individualized attention for a wide variety of students across all of its disciplines.

Known for being a tight-knit, caring community, Montana Western faculty, administrators, and staff emphasize the success of every student and place great value on degree completion. The University strives to maintain the highest standards possible and places significant emphasis on attracting and retaining quality faculty and staff.

Montana Western has 73 full-time faculty members, with 78 percent possessing a doctorate or other terminal degree, and 18 part-time faculty members, resulting in a student/professor ratio of 16:1. About 65 percent of the classes have fewer than 20 students,

and all classes are taught by faculty.

Montana Western has 1,378 students (1,336 FTE) with about 54 percent women and 46 percent men. The University offers 31 majors and 15 minors in 10 different baccalaureate programs: biology, English, fine arts, education, environmental sciences, equine studies, business, mathematics, history, health and human performance, and political and social sciences. UMW also offers two-year associate degrees in more than 20 areas of interest.

Montana Western is the first and only public four-year university in the nation to offer block scheduling, known as Experience One, or X1 for short. The innovative delivery system offers students the benefit of focusing on one class at a time, three hours per day for 18 days, while earning the same amount of credits over a semester as in traditional models.

Experience One provides students with hands-on learning opportunities and real-world experiences within the student's specific discipline. X1 encourages a serious commitment to learning while teaching organization, responsibility, and productivity. Attendance increases, academic confidence and performance improve, and more students graduate. The institution's six-year graduation rate is up 67 percent since the establishment of Experience One block scheduling.

Situated on the main campus are 15 major buildings. The first campus building was



constructed in 1897, and the most recent building was built in 2003.

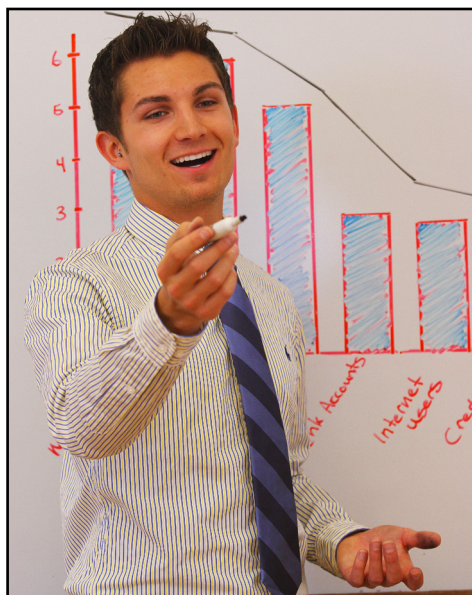
The Main Hall complex, including the first building on the Montana Western campus, recently underwent a multi-million dollar renovation to restore historical architecture features and improve the safety of the building. The University is raising matching funds to complete the third and final phase of the project.

The campus of Montana Western consists of approximately 39 acres, of which 30 acres lie in one block. The unattached nine acres is represented mostly by the athletic field, which is approximately seven city blocks from the main campus.

The Bender Center is the University's Outdoor Education Center located at Birch Creek, approximately 20 miles north of Dillon, Montana.

The University is home to radio station KDWG (90.9 FM, "90.9 The Dawg"), which is licensed to serve Dillon. The station is owned by Montana Western and is operated by a student staff. It airs a variety format dictated by student DJs.

Montana Western Bulldog athletics compete in the NAIA Frontier



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Conference. Sports programs include football, volleyball, basketball, cross country, cheerleading, and rodeo. UMW's rodeo team is a member of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association.

About Dillon, Montana

Southwest Montana and the Dillon area offer beautiful, unspoiled country with an abundance of mountains, lakes, forest, valleys, rivers, fish, and wildlife. Two of the country's most magnificent national parks — Yellowstone and Glacier — are within hours of Dillon. Located about an hour and a half away is Bozeman, which features an international airport, excellent shopping and restaurants, and outdoor recreation opportunities.

Dillon is a small town with a lot to offer. The town of 4,000 people is on the Beaverhead River, a "blue ribbon" fly fishing waterway. The area offers a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities, including hiking, fly fishing, hunting, and downhill and cross-country skiing. Historic Dillon is surrounded on three sides by the Continental Divide and by seven mountain ranges.

Dillon and Beaverhead County includes unique geologic features and countless creeks, rivers, and lakes. The Dillon area is rich with history.

In 2010, *Forbes* magazine named Dillon as one of "America's Prettiest Towns." Natural amenities and small town charm helped earn Dillon a place in the September 2006 edition of *National Geographic Adventure's* "31 great small towns."

Although located in rural Montana, Dillon offers premier healthcare and education. The town has a new, state-of-the-art hospital. Dillon's elementary and high schools are recognized as being among the top schools in the state.



Nominations and Application Process

Confidential inquiries are welcomed; nominations are invited.

1. **To Apply** - Application packet must include:
 - a) A letter of interest
 - b) Current curriculum vitae
 - c) At least five references with full contact information (References will not be contacted without consent from applicants.)
 - d) Your answers to the questions at:
www.myersmcrae.com/skins/userfiles/file/MMQuestions.pdf
2. **Submit application packet** to: UMWestern@myersmcrae.com

Nominations should include the name, e-mail, and telephone number of the individual being nominated. Nomination should be submitted to the above email.

For best consideration, submit application materials by **February 2, 2016**.

Kenny Daugherty, Executive Vice President and COO of **Myers McRae Executive Search and Consulting**, is assisting the University of Montana Western with this search.



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The University of Montana Western is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and encourages applications from qualified women, minorities, Vietnam era veterans, and people with disabilities.