

**BITTERROOT COLLEGE PROGRAM COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS SUMMARY JULY 27, 2010**

Community Meetings			Sector Meetings	
Corvallis	Hamilton	Stevensville	Business	School Districts
Darby	Lone Rock	Victor	Government	Trapper Creek Job Corps
Florence			Health Care	

**EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING**

	Programming	Issues/Ideas
<b>College</b>	Degrees which support a tourist/destination/retirement economy such as hospitality, recreation, culinary arts, building & equipment maintenance, property management, and landscaping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Provide dual credit for high school students, but at a reduced tuition rate</li> <li>✓ Provide in-state tuition rates to out-of-state Job Corps students</li> <li>✓ Serve traditional-age students who cannot afford to drive or move for college, are intimidated by a large campus, don't have academic or vocational direction, and/or are not ready to leave home</li> </ul>
	Degrees which support health care such as LPN, RN, medical billing and coding (must be AHIMA certified), physical therapy assistant, and occupational therapy assistant	
	Degrees which support green technologies	
	Transfer AA and AS degrees	
	Political Science course on local, state, and regional governance and issues	
<b>Continuing Education</b>	Workforce development courses for the long-term unemployed focusing on basic technology and computer skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ More awareness of and collaboration between school districts regarding current non-credit adult education offerings</li> <li>✓ Understanding of how school districts spend the adult education levy</li> <li>✓ Multiple sections of needed courses to accommodate different student schedules, especially for certification/recertification courses</li> <li>✓ Have books in libraries which help students with college readiness</li> </ul>
	Workforce development courses for employees focusing on intermediate computer skills, management, co-worker relations, and customer relations	
	Workforce development courses for small businesses including Excel, QuickBooks, and Business Planning	
	Professional recertification courses – especially for teachers	
	Certification/recertification/specialty certification courses for health care workers – CNA (including acute care), EMT, Ambulance, Critical Care, Cardiac Monitoring & Telemetry, IV rules	
	Life skills courses on health, mental health, nutrition, preparedness, and self-sufficiency	
	College readiness courses	
	Personal enrichment courses	

**STUDENT SUPPORT**

	Services	Issues/Ideas
	Career exploration services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Recognize that many students are non-traditional age needing to transition to a new career because of structural changes in the local economy (extraction/agriculture to service/knowledge economy)</li> </ul>
	College placement services	
	Admission services	
	Financial aid services	
	College orientation services (especially websites and online programming)	
	Academic /degree program advisors	

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

	Needs	Issues/Ideas
	Engage elementary and secondary students in the importance of a college education	
	Engage elementary and secondary students in the importance of having a college in their community	

**FACILITIES**

	Needs	Issues/Ideas
	Central location with video link to other MUS campuses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Use existing buildings (schools, libraries, churches) especially in beginning years</li> <li>✓ Use schools and libraries for online programming</li> <li>✓ Minimize need to drive to Missoula</li> <li>✓ Assist with drive to Missoula</li> <li>✓ Look to locals for land donations and money for facility construction</li> </ul>
	Provide offerings in Darby	

**ORGANIZATION**

	Needs	Issues/ideas
	Entity needs to have permanence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Investigate models from other states</li> <li>✓ Observation: UM-COT needs independence from the UM—right now just a step-child of the 4-yr system, because of this arrangement the UM-COT is slow to respond and not responsive to community, too much bureaucracy</li> </ul>
	Who hires the president matters	

**THEMES**

- **Relevance**
  - Programming must be relevant to the current and projected economic direction of the county, with locally earned degrees leading to locally available jobs
- **Convenience**
  - Programming must be convenient, combining locally available face-to-face and video-link classes with online classes
- **Connections**
  - Services must include connecting students to the college or training opportunity of their choice, whether opportunity is near or far
  - Entity must connect the various levels and layers of locally available adult learning
- **Cost containment**
  - New facilities are expensive to the taxpayer, using existing facilities and developing online programming are ways to keep facility costs down