



RevUp Montana Marches On With Impressive Outcomes

The state-wide grant has now reached its two year milestone, and we are ahead of schedule in the number of students we are affecting. The 13 college consortium has 1308 participants so far, with an additional 842 being impacted.

RevUp Montana helps prepare Montana workers to secure high wage positions employers across Montana need to fill. Another new development is Montana's recent implementation of the Workforce Innovation & Opportunities Act (WIOA), which is an effort being spearheaded with a collaborative effort by the Montana Department of Labor and the Office of Commissioner for Higher Education. Kirk Lacy, Industry Driven Workforce Development Partnerships director, said, "We need 65,000 additional workers just to meet the employers' needs in the future. Combining that with the high retirement rate that is expected over the next few years, we have three major forces that are converging that are challenging employers to meet their workforce needs." Montana is the first state actively working on implementing WIOA, which was signed into law by President Obama in 2014. Helena College is currently getting involved in this effort to assist employers is getting enough of the workforce trained in the trade disciplines to fulfill this need.



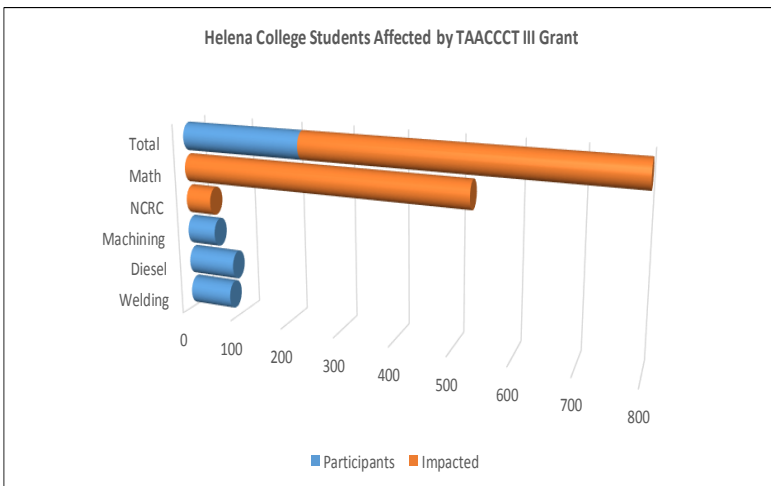
Updated Numbers and Tidbits

- Total Helena College student participants are now 226, with 577 impacted
- Fifteen students for the Fall session have received \$1,000 Gianforte Family Foundation scholarships, bringing the total number of students at Helena College up to 41 students!

Ingenious Applications for Welding



I bought the iPhone 6 for you and I've conveniently welded it to your summer project.



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Esau Saw the New Band Saw



General Marvel Mark II Band Saw

We may not have many students named Esau, but if we did, they would be very pleased with the new band saw just put into service this semester. This made in America band saw has a tilt-frame which is capable of cutting metal at any conceivable straight or miter cut (45° right and left). For you saw buffs, the saw is manually controlled, uses cutting fluid and has an 18 inch cutting range.

To make a long story short, this saw is another piece of equipment purchased with the TAACCCT grant that brings leading edge technology that is used and required by employers to the fingertips of our students. This saw will complement the other equipment already purchased for the welding area. Stay tuned: there may be more to come..

Introducing: Steve Felter

Steve grew up around Newburg, NY and moved to Show Low, AZ in 1972. He graduated High School and joined the Navy as an Engineman in 1974 and subsequently served for 30 years, reaching the rank of E-9. Once he graduated from high school, the rest of his family moved to Helena. After Steve retired from the Navy, he worked at the Naval Station Key West, FL as the maintenance coordinator for their security boat squadron. Subsequently, he worked with the United States Coast Guard Academy maintenance department as their Quality Assurance specialist. Two years later, Steve saw an opportunity to move to Helena as the Maintenance Supervisor for the Fort Harrison Veterans Hospital and worked there for almost eight years. That's when the opportunity for the RevUp night diesel instructor position came up, so he applied.

He has really enjoyed his time teaching evening classes because he believes it takes a lot of dedication to try and work a normal day job and then go to school at night. He hopes more people take advantage of this opportunity in the future.



Steve Felter

Open Educational Resources-A Wealth of Teaching Materials for Free

Imagine as an instructor or just a curious individual the convenience of finding classes and materials in your subject area for free? Not only that, these classes and materials are created by top-notch universities and follow the protocol for achieving a high standard for teaching materials, which includes Quality Matters and Universal Design for Learners (UDL).

Open Educational Resources (OERs) are any type of educational materials that are in the public domain or introduced with an open license. The nature of these open materials means that anyone can legally and freely copy, use, adapt and re-share them. OERs range from textbooks to curricula, syllabi, lecture notes, assignments, tests, projects, audio, video and animation. Many federal grants are now requiring that materials created with their funds must be uploaded and made available to the public forum so that others can utilize these materials.

For more information, or if you are just interested in browsing, here are some links

<https://open4us.org/>

<https://www.skillscommons.org/>

<https://www.edx.org/school/dartmouthx>

<https://www.coursera.org/about/partners>

<http://www.hewlett.org/programs/education/open-educational-resources>

<http://libguides.lib.umt.edu/c.php?g=275328&p=1836810>

