Montana State Legislature

Exhibit Number: 1

Title: *Shared Leadership for a Stronger Montana Economy*

This exhibit is a full colored paper copy of a Power Point Presentation. The color portion scans black, making it difficult to view. A small portion has been scanned but the clarity is poor. The colored copy is on file at the Montana Historical Society and may be viewed there.

19 Slides

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Shared Leadership for a Stronger Montana Economy

Appropriations Subcommittee

January 24, 2005

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Purpose of "Shared Leadership"

Develop a course of action by which the university system (both 2- and 4-year colleges) can coordinate more efficiently with the executive and legislative branches, our congressional delegation, the K-12 educational system, and the business community to improve Montana's economy and create more good paying jobs for our citizens.

"Shared Leadership" Process

- **Phase 1 (July '03)**: Ad hoc group develops, "brainstorms" process and issues
- **Phase 2 (Jan. '04)**: Formal process approved and implemented. Developed…
  - Leadership Group to provide top-level advice and coordination
  - Project Team to act as a working-level steering committee
  - Formal engagement with legislature through PEPB subcommittee
  - Top three priorities for action.
- **Phase 3 (Aug. '04)**: Steering committees and advisory groups engaged.
  - Steering committee members charged with "turf-busting"
  - Identified key problem areas in assigned initiative area
  - Developed recommendations for change.

Three Priority Initiatives

The following three initiatives were approved at the third joint meeting of the PEPB Subcommittee and the Board of Regents (July 2004):

- Develop stronger business-university system partnerships for workforce training ("Workforce")
- Remove barriers to access for postsecondary education ("Access")
- Expand distance learning programs and training ("Distance Learning")

Overview of the Effort

- Shared Leadership is an on-going effort.
  - We started with three priority initiatives.
  - Initiatives will expand over time.
- Steering committees comprised of non-university system citizens.
- Problem descriptions and recommendations are from the steering committee.
- Recommendations overlap with other important effort underway.
  - E.g. Board of Education P-20, Best & Brightest.

Expand Distance Learning Programs and Training

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Distance and Online Learning

Steering Committee's Problem Summary:

- Some Montana campuses have great distance learning programs, but...
- Montana's distance learning programs lack system-wide coordination.
  - Each institution determines its own offerings.
  - Current "catalogue" consists of links to individual sites.
- Disparities are confusing and costly for students, especially students who use the offerings of more than one campus.
- Support services have little consistency.
- The university system cannot capture economies of scale or position the system strategically.
  - Competition is truly global.

Distance and Online Learning

Recommendations of the Steering Committee:

- Develop a coordinated structure for distance learning in Montana including the creation of a director charged with designing and implementing a statewide approach to distance learning.
- Develop a Montana Distance Learning Gateway that will provide a "one-stop" portal for Montanans to learn about and access distance delivery courses throughout the State.
- Conduct a needs assessment to determine the types of distance programs most needed by Montana citizens and employers and then develop those priority programs.

Distance and Online Learning

Original Request (biennium):

- $1 million to fund:
  - University System IT director
  - Create Montana "Distance Learning Gateway"
  - Fund needs assessment and develop highest priority programs

Gov. Schweitzer Executive Budget:

- $600,000

What Executive Funding will Accomplish:

  - University System IT director
  - Create Montana "Distance Learning Gateway"

Remove Barriers to Access for Postsecondary Education

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