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I am commenting about topic that is very special. Selecting the right campus is an overwhelming decision. As a business major I am aware of the implications of supply and demand and equally knowledgeable of the importance of customer satisfaction, product quality in marketing.

In some respects over 3,500 institutions offering higher education opportunities, it's a buyers market for qualified students. Even within the West, to recruit a student is tremendous. And that's not including the increasing number of on-line campuses. So with the world at my fingertips, I chose U of M-Western. I chose Western not only for it's spectacular location, affordability and attractive academic offerings but perhaps even more so for it's vitality, far from sleepy campus, exudes energy, yet maintains it's Western Roots.

As a native of Wyoming I was aware of Western's cowboy image, yet that was part of my initial attraction. But a number of campuses in the region also offer the same opportunities. What was different about Western was not just the small campus appeal but also the fact that they are bold enough to consider change. Their emphasis on experiential learning, not just in science and art but also throughout the curriculum.

One appealing notion for students and even more intriguing was the concept of Experience One- taking one class at a time. After all the only other opportunity for this experience are very expensive private colleges. No, I have not been able to take full advantage of Experience One. As a senior I am just ahead of the curve so to speak. But as a member of the student senate, I have sat on numerous committees and been very much involved in the planning process and have been an active part of the creative process. It's been a great opportunity for me to work along side of faculty and administrators and developing the future direction of Western. Talk about a hands on experience for a business major. What can be more hands-on than assisting with the institutional plan that will impact generations of students?

And for you Montana taxpayers who are concerned about providing tax support for out of state students, I'm living proof that your tax dollars earning dividends. Not only did I pay higher tuition rates than my Montana friends, this summer I will be married. And if the employment gods are willing I plan to make Montana my home. Thanks to you and thanks to Western. Thank you very much.