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Inviting Applications and Nominations for

Chancellor



*The University of Montana Western seeks a confident and perceptive individual to serve in the executive leadership role of **Chancellor**. With the abilities to balance and prioritize, the Chancellor will possess the discernment to assess, modify, and define a path on which Montana Western can pursue its mission and goals. This executive administrator is responsible for effectively building on Montana Western's steadily growing enrollment, leading-edge learning technology, and outstanding academic programs, while strategically strengthening and positioning the institution for further success.*

UMW Mission Statement

As a leader and innovator in experiential education, the University of Montana Western educates undergraduate students through immersive practices in their field of study, strives for continuous improvement, and achieves evidence-supported student learning and achievement outcomes.

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY


The University of Montana Western (UMW) is a comprehensive, four-year, regional university offering certificates, associate's, and bachelor's degrees. UMW is an affiliate campus of the University of Montana.

UMW is the first and only public four-year university in the nation to offer a unique block scheduling system known as *Experience One*, or X1 for short. The innovative system offers students the benefit of taking one course at a time for 18 days, taking a short break, and then moving on to their next course, all while earning the same amount of credits over a semester as in traditional models. Twenty years after its implementation, *Experience One* continues to provide students a remarkable educational experience.

Experience One provides students with hands-on learning opportunities and real-world experiences within the student's specific discipline, which often involves participation in undergraduate research, attending and presenting at conferences, internships, and engagement in other High Impact Practices (HIPs).

X1 encourages a serious commitment to learning while teaching organization, responsibility, and productivity resulting in increased attendance, bolstered academic confidence, and improved performance. Graduation rates have significantly

increased since 2006—increasing from a six-year graduation rate of 40% to a current graduation rate of 51% for overall degrees, with a bachelor's degree graduation rate of 54%.

The University is currently in the final year of its strategic plan and moving toward a new strategic plan that will be implemented in the fall of 2026. More information about the strategic planning process can be found at [**umwestern.edu/strategic-planning**](https://umwestern.edu/strategic-planning). 

Founded in 1893 as a teacher training college, the University of Montana Western has a long-standing legacy in state higher education. Highly innovative in the way students are taught, the University has a rich tradition of providing individualized attention for a variety of students across all of its disciplines.

Known for being a tight-knit, caring community, UMW 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.

UMW has 68 full-time faculty members and 47 part-time faculty members, resulting in a student/professor ratio of 15:1 and an average class size of fewer than 20 students.



The University offers 32 bachelor's degrees, 23 associate's degrees, 13 certificates, and one graduate certificate from 10 different academic departments: Business and Technology; Biology; Education; English; Environmental Sciences; Equine Studies; Fine Arts; Health and Human Performance; History, Philosophy, and Social Sciences; and Mathematics.

The University campus of shade trees, walks, and historic, picturesque buildings has an unsurpassed panoramic view of mountain ranges. Situated on the main campus are 18 major buildings. The first campus building, the north section of Main Hall, was constructed in 1897, and the most recent buildings, including Bulldog Stadium, were completed in 2024 with the new Student Wellness Facility completed in 2025 and the complete renovation of Block Hall to be completed in 2026. The entire Main Hall complex underwent a multi-million dollar renovation to restore historic architectural features and improve the safety of the building.

Montana Western Bulldog athletics compete in the NAIA Frontier Conference. Sports programs include football, men's and women's teams in basketball, cross country, track, and rodeo, as well as women's volleyball. UMW's rodeo team is a member of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association.

From successful athletic programs to an impressive list of campus clubs and organizations, there is no shortage of engaging activities at Montana Western. Brimming with activities, organizations, student groups, clubs, and solid support networks, students enjoy an enriching extracurricular life to help them along their educational journeys.

UMW Points of Pride

- ▶ Most affordable tuition among all four-year universities in Montana
- ▶ Ranked #5 in the West among public undergraduate colleges (*U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges*)
- ▶ UMW professors are consistently recognized in their fields internationally, nationally, and in the state of Montana
- ▶ Recipient of the Campus Prevention Network's Seal of Prevention recognizing UMW's commitment to student safety, well-being, and inclusion
- ▶ UMW students are consistently recognized for their civic engagement, volunteerism, and commitment to service by organizations including Campus Compact and the Montana Campus Network for Civic Engagement
- ▶ UMW students frequently present at national research conferences hosted by organizations including the Geological Society of America, the American Association of Anatomy, and the Western Regional Honors Council
- ▶ The only public or private university in the nation offering a four-year degree in natural horsemanship
- ▶ UMW's Glass Arts Program hosts glass artists in residency from around the world who work with students each year in the university's state-of-the-art facility



THE OPPORTUNITY

Working closely with the President of the University of Montana, the Chancellor sets the vision and priorities of the University of Montana Western, ensuring that all are reflective of the institution's mission of meeting the educational needs of its students.

The Chancellor will have the leadership skills, administrative experiences, and management abilities to effectively oversee the personnel, facilities, and operations of the University that serves a diverse population. In concert with the faculty and administrative staff, the Chancellor will set the goals, priorities, and direction of the institution, ensuring that all are reflective of Montana Western's distinctive mission and strengths of serving the educational needs of southwest Montana, while remaining committed to academic excellence and broad student accessibility.

A confident and perceptive administrator who is able to make difficult decisions and to pursue strategic courses of action, the new Chancellor will work collaboratively with others. Together with the abilities to balance and prioritize, the Chancellor will possess the discernment and judgment to assess, modify, and

find a coherent path on which Montana Western can pursue its mission and goals.

The executive officer's leadership style will help preserve and enhance the connectedness of each part of the campus community. The Chancellor will embrace the role as Montana Western's chief ambassador and excel in representing the University.

Regarded as a leader in the state, region, and local community as well as in academia, the Chancellor must have proven experience in developing partnerships and connections that benefit the institution's goal to increase and extend its visibility and its reputation as a high-quality four-year state institution in Montana, the Nation, and the World.

Using imagination, perspective, and commitment, this leader will develop new channels of support. The executive officer will have responsibilities in developing and sustaining relationships with foundations, corporations, alumni, and friends to advance the University's fundraising efforts.

A priority for the next Chancellor will be to ensure continuing improvements to the university's recruitment, retention, and graduation rates.

Qualifications

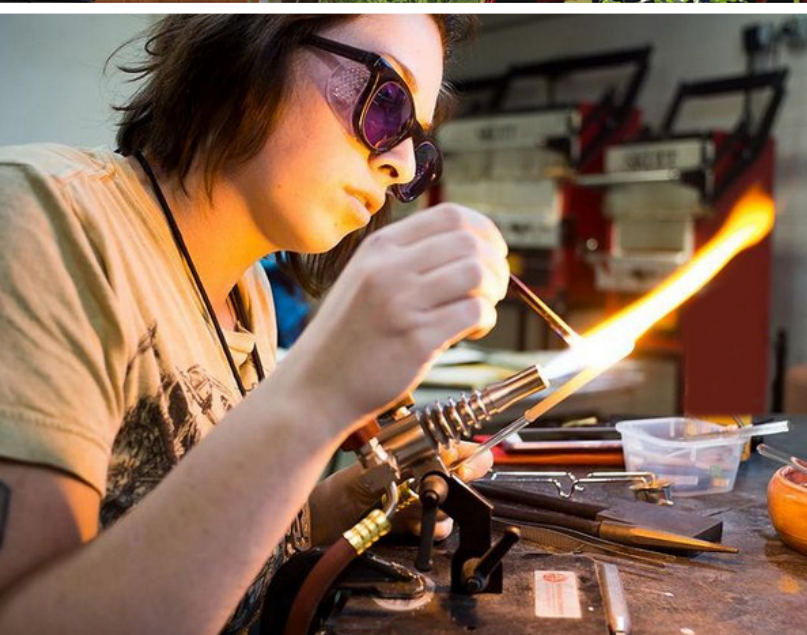
An essential quality in the incoming Chancellor is the ability to connect, collaborate, and building positive relationships with stakeholders in order to advance and complete capital campaigns.

- An earned terminal degree is preferred.
- Extensive academic and administrative experience at the level of Dean or higher is required.

The next Chancellor also will:

- Foster a vibrant and empowered community through a proven leadership style that evokes trust, welcomes collaboration, reflects confident decision making, and effectively engages the talents and experiences of the administration and faculty

- Recruit, develop, and lead faculty, staff, and administration effectively
- Oversee a sound budgetary and fiscal planning process that sustains and enhances the institution's long-term financial strength and utilizes its resources to their fullest
- Develop and implement short- and long-term strategic goals and plans that are aligned with the University of Montana Western's strategic plan
- Provide a progressive vision for the future growth of the University in terms of teaching, scholarship, service, enrollment, finance, technology, and facilities
- Work effectively with the Montana University System in advocating the needs and plans of the institution





DILLON

A spectacular setting, Dillon, Montana, sits in the beautiful Beaverhead Valley, surrounded on three sides by the Continental Divide and seven mountain ranges.

Dillon provides a safe, small-town environment for Montana Western's students, faculty, and staff. Concerts, theater, and other programs serve cultural needs of the community. Nearby recreational areas are ideal for nature study, picnics, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, and skiing.

Southwest Montana and the Dillon area offer beautiful, unspoiled country with an abundance of mountains, lakes, forest, valleys, rivers, fish, and wildlife.

Yellowstone National Park is just 2.5 hours away. Less than 2 hours away is Bozeman, Montana, with an international airport, excellent shopping

and restaurants, and more outdoor recreation opportunities.

Winters in Dillon are historically mild and summers are pleasant with cool nights. The valley is noted for its typically crystal clear air and blue skies with abundant snow in the surrounding mountains but relatively little snow or rain in the valley.

Dillon has been recognized as one of "America's Prettiest Towns" by Forbes magazine. Its natural amenities and small town charm have also earned the attention of National Geographic Adventure's "31 great small towns."

Dillon's residents have access to premier healthcare and education. The town boasts a new, state-of-the-art hospital and Dillon's elementary and high schools are among the top schools in the state.

Application & Nomination Process

Confidential inquiries are welcomed, and nominations are invited.



Applications

- 1) All application packets must include the following:
 - a) A letter of application that includes the candidate's (1) interest in and qualifications for the position, (2) leadership philosophy, and (3) vision for the University of Montana Western
 - b) Current curriculum vitae or résumé
 - c) At least four references with full contact information including e-mail (*References will not be contacted without consent from applicant.*)
- 2) Submit application materials online, preferably as PDFs. Additional information is requested with the submission of materials. **For best consideration, complete applications should be received before February 16, 2026.**

[APPLY HERE](#)

Nominations

Submit nominations with complete contact and e-mail information for the individual being nominated.

[NOMINATE HERE](#)

Consultant

Kenny Daugherty, President of **Myers McRae Executive Search and Consulting**, is assisting the University of Montana Western with this search for Chancellor. **Request a conversation regarding this search at KennyDaugherty@myersmcr ae.com.**



The University of Montana Western is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and encourages applications from qualified women, minorities, veterans and people with disabilities. Criminal Background Investigation is required prior to the Offer of Employment in accordance with University regulations, finalists for this position will be subject to criminal background investigations. ADA/EOE/AA/Veteran's Preference Reasonable accommodations are provided in the hiring process for persons with disabilities. For example, this material is available in alternative format upon request.