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October 4, 2011

Dr. Rosalyn A. Templeton  
Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs  
Montana State University – Northern  
P.O. Box 7751  
210 Cowan Hall  
Havre, MT 59501

Dear Provost Templeton:

This is to inform you of recent action taken by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities regarding your correspondence dated April 2, 2011, requesting approval for Montana State University – Northern (MSU - Northern) to partner with Mid-South Community College (MSCC) in West Memphis, Arkansas, for the purpose of delivering a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree program in Diesel Technology.

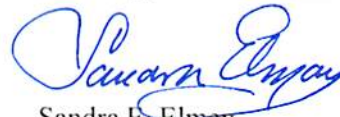
In reviewing this prospectus, it is noted that the proposed collaborative is in concert with the University's mission and goals, as well as the mission and goals of the partner institution, which include a commitment to applying emerging technology in partnerships with communities, education, business and industry. The BS degree program in Diesel Technology is 124 semester credits in length. The degree program is being delivered in a 2+2 model, in which an Associate of Applied Science degree is awarded by MSCC and is then articulated directly into the Bachelor of Science degree awarded by MSU - Northern. MSU - Northern will assume responsibility for enrolling students into the program, collecting tuition and fees, providing oversight of the curriculum, as well as other aspects of curriculum delivery. MSU - Northern and MSCC will establish financial aid consortium agreements applicable to dually enrolled students. Articulated courses and general education courses have been evaluated for compliance with Montana and Arkansas general education state requirements, and with the learning outcomes of the degree program. The University plans to initially relocate selected faculty to the campus of MSCC to deliver curriculum, provide training, and provide student advising. As the program develops, additional qualified faculty will be hired as needed. Funding for the program includes a portion of a three-year grant awarded by the Department of Labor to enhance diesel technology. The University will cover the costs of faculty salaries and benefits through May 2012, after which there will be negotiations for instructional responsibility. At the campus of MSCC, sufficient space, library collections and equipment will be provided to support faculty, students, and curriculum delivery. MSCC will provide travel and related costs of faculty visitations and training at MSU - Northern. Both institutions agree to provide appropriate services to students. Finally, a committee of two persons from each institution will be formed to evaluate and resolve any unanticipated issues that might arise.

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Inasmuch as the proposed collaborative is consistent with the mission and goals of both institutions, the Commission has approved this collaborative under Policy A-2, *Substantive Change*. Accordingly, Montana State University - Northern's collaborative with Mid-South Community College to offer a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree program in Diesel Technology at the Mid-South Community College campus located in West Memphis, Arkansas, is now included under the accreditation of Montana State University - Northern. The University is expected to provide an update for this collaborative in its Year Three Self-Evaluation Report scheduled for Fall 2013.

Thank you for keeping the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities apprised of developments and initiatives at Montana State University – Northern. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Sandra E. Elman  
President

SEE:jmb

cc: Dr. Joseph Callahan, Interim Chancellor