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*Helena College Mission:*

*Helena College supports our diverse community by providing the paths and tools necessary to assist learners in achieving their educational and career goals.*

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## **Community Advisory Board Meeting Monday, February 3, 2025 DON 123**

### **Attendees:**

#### **Community Board Members:**

Katelyn Griep – Helena Indian Alliance  
Brian Kessler – Helena High School  
Callie Aschim – Helena Area Chamber of Commerce  
Andy Shirliff – Helena City Commissioner  
Kelly Creswell – Reach Higher Montana  
Dan Rispens – East Helena Public School

#### **Helena College Employees:**

Stephanie Hunthausen – Executive Director of CTE and Dual Enrollment  
Robyn Kiesling – Executive Director of General Education and Transfer  
Jeri Bucy – Director of Community Education Center  
Melissa Mousel – Program Manager – CTE

The meeting consisted of small group discussion of data from the last three years related to enrollment, retention, and completion rates. The focus was on evaluating the following five statements embedded in the federal Perkins Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment. These statements serve to evaluate Helena College student performance.

### **1. Students from special populations perform acceptably in each CTE Program.**

#### **Gender:**

- Gaps in Auto, Cosmetology, IT, Nursing
- Auto, Metal Fab, IT do not attract (graduate) females
- Skilled Trades programs are male heavy
- Not much diversity in Aviation

Pell grant recipients:

- Pell recipients seem to perform less acceptably than peers, but generally students from special populations are performing acceptably
- No Pell grants in Fire, IT, Metals
- Pell grant students are under retaining

Accessibility services:

- Less than 10 students from skilled trades enrolled in accessibility services

**2. Students from different genders, races, and ethnicities perform acceptably in each CTE Program.**

Questions to ponder:

- Does race/ethnicity mirror larger community percentages?
- Can students see themselves in recruitment and promotion efforts for CTE programs?

Performance Assessments Notes:

- With some fluctuations, this seems to be correct
- Not many non-white students in CTE
- CTE above levels seen in the general education
- Race/Ethnicity jump in enrollment in 2021
- Higher retention for males in all programs

**3. Performance gaps exist between subgroups of students.**

- Higher retention rates for males in all programs except Accounting and Business
- Accessibility service utilized by more students on Donaldson campus, including Cosmetology
- Minimal Performance gaps do exist, but this fluctuates based on year, program, etc.
- Male: less numbers in Cosmetology and Nursing
- Female: less numbers in Auto, Aviation, and IT

**4. There are CTE programs where special populations are performing above average.**

- Retention of students of color has increased since 2021
- Accessibility services: Industrial Welding and Metal Fab, Nursing, Accounting and Business

- Male: Auto, Aviation, IT
- Female: Cosmetology, Nursing, Diesel

**5. There are CTE programs where special populations are performing below average.**

Questions to Ponder:

- Representative of faculty leadership positions?
- Race/ethnicity mirror larger community representation?

Performance Assessments Notes:

- Pell students are under retaining in every program (CNC, Fire, Diesel specifically)  
Automotive is the exception
- Pell-CNC, Diesel, Fire and Emergency Services performing below average