



University of Montana
32 Campus Drive
Missoula, MT 59812

January 4, 2022

Missoula Chamber of Commerce, Board of Directors
825 E. Front St.
Missoula, MT 59802

Dear Missoula Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors,

I write to you today to thank the Missoula Chamber of Commerce, and specifically CEO/President Kim Latrielle, for your partnership to bring more rapid employee training capacity to Montana.

Over the past several months, Kim has brought state government leaders to Missoula repeatedly to meet with UM officials, local employers, and area lawmakers to identify solutions to the ongoing workforce challenges that are hamstringing our economy. As a result, UM is well-positioned through AccelerateMT, our economic and workforce development partner, to develop rapid training solutions to meet these challenges head on in 2022.

This partnership between the Missoula Chamber of Commerce and the University of Montana will enable employers – both here in Missoula and across Montana – to better meet their existing workforce needs, while also building a blueprint that can serve local job creators for years to come. None of this would be possible without the strong leadership, vision, and tenacity of Kim Latrielle.

We have seen this model work in our community before. Since 2019, UM's partnership with ATG-Cognizant, known as Aim Higher, has helped create more than 100 good-paying jobs in Missoula—simply by working together to build a 15-week curriculum that trains our students to fill needed openings at ATG-Cognizant. This win-win formula has helped ATG-Cognizant continue to grow, while providing dozens of UM students and Missoula community members with the ability to launch their careers here in Missoula.

As we enter into this new era of growth and adaptation at UM, it is critical that we are able to lean on our community and statewide partners to ensure we are doing the very best for our students and our state. I am proud to report to you that we are achieving that mission by better building education and workforce training options into our offerings that are directly influenced and shaped by Missoula's local businesses.

It is hard to imagine this successful partnership coming to fruition without Kim's guidance and ability to get things done. The thought that gets me most excited as we continue this work in 2022 is knowing that we have just scratched the surface of what can be accomplished. I am thrilled for what is in store ahead as UM and the Missoula Chamber of Commerce shift this working relationship into the next gear for the benefit of our students and the local business leaders who aim to employ them.

Thank you for your continued service to our community and I look forward to seeing you all again

Office of the President

soon in the new year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Seth Bodnar', with a horizontal line underneath.

Seth Bodnar