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## HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION PROGRAM

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER- NOVEMBER 2017

Midterm Madness was a huge success! The students (and staff) devoured almost 20 pizzas! Several lucky students won fabulous prizes from Dilly Bars to movie tickets.

The holiday season is beginning soon. Access to Success will be closed on Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup> for Veterans Day and then November 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> for Thanksgiving. Enjoy your days off and stay out of trouble.

### Class Spotlight: Science

What's happening with Science at Access!

This semester, we have been learning all about Weather and Climate. One of our fun projects so far has been to learn about how weather balloons work and how scientists use them to check atmospheric conditions. We decided to find out if we could build our own balloons and work on getting them to float. Students were able to use tissue paper to create a balloon and fly it. Students had to follow the guidelines specifically to be successful. We had a few holes and a few burning balloons, but all was safe. Some were more

successful than others but it was beautiful day to be outside.

If you still need to take a science class this upcoming semester or just want to take a great class for an elective, we are offering two great choices this upcoming semester: Intro to Anatomy and Physiology and Intro to Botany. Intro to Anatomy and Physiology will start you on a journey to the internal workings of your body and the fun processes that occur on a daily basis. We will look at each of the systems that make up a human and how they work together every day. Botany will involve the study of plants and how they process energy, grow and help to regulate our environment. We will grow our own plants to watch the processes in action. Hope to see you in one of these great choices!



### Trivia (answer for a prize)

When does registration for Spring 2018 begin?

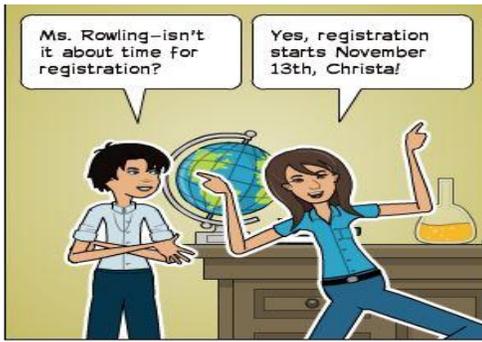
**Reminder:** You will **NOT BE ABLE TO** register for Spring 2018 classes if you have hold on your account. You will have a hold on your account if you have not finished your AlcoholEdu, Haven, and/or Transit classes or if you have an overdue library book.

### Comments from an Access to Success Student:

Things aren't binary anymore,' is undoubtedly the best thing I have ever said to anyone at any point. It perfectly sums up how my life changed with Access.

I struggled with school a lot. It was very concrete and rigid and I just didn't work that way. I had to do things in a way that I didn't understand when there was a perfectly good path in front of me. This was only a small thing at first – in fact, many teachers adored it. However, this effect snowballed as I grew up, and finally hit the bank everyone

**\*\*Access to Success is a high school completion program in the Helena School District. We provide students, 16 and over, who have dropped out the opportunity to earn their diploma. \*\***



hoped it wouldn't when I stared 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Depression hit me hard and a particularly awful teacher placed roadblocks on my learning. Going into Helena High, I really struggled, especially with my teetering mental health. After a rough couple of years, I was finally old enough to enter a program called Access to Success. 16.

I was so afraid it was simply going to be an ugly repeat of what I had already



experienced in school – just with new people. There were truths I thought I knew, and things I thought I knew would happen. I went to orientation, and met some people who, (though awkward and new students), all desired the same thing. We all wanted to succeed. At that very moment in time, quite a few truths came crashing down. All the sudden, I could succeed too. I was excited for school. For Access.

Within days of attending my first day of school, I met people with so many dreams – way more than

anyone I had ever met before. Not all of us knew what we wanted to do with life, but we all knew the people surrounding us in Access all got it. 'It,' was an ambiguous term, but it made sense. It was life, relationships, school, work, and all the crap we had to deal with every day. People were more genuine. With themselves and others.

My feelings about Access can be hard to parse. Hard to be put into words. I always knew the ambiguity of everyday society's view on, 'dropouts,' was based in anger that people wouldn't fit into the cookie cutter and conveyer belt of normal high school, but I suppose I never quite understood. Suddenly I was one of those dropouts, and I had never been happier, more successful, or prouder of who I was.

**UPCOMING INFORMATION NIGHTS**

**November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**Information nights are at 6:00pm on the Helena College campus in room 009.**

Things *were*n't binary anymore. All the sudden life was a rainbow of aspects I could experience, instead of either fitting in or being a failure. To be honest, I'm glad I can't put it into words. Truthfully, just like me, life can't be pinned down. And I like that. - Teddy Jumps

**Spring 2018**

If you know of anyone that might be interested in joining our program please let them know about our upcoming information nights. We will start taking applications for new students on Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017. All new students must attend New Student Orientation and take a reading test to show that they can read at the 9<sup>th</sup> grade level. Orientation will fill up quickly!

**Bellwether Award**

Did you know that Access to Success was nominated for the Bellwether Award? This prestigious award recognizes outstanding and innovative programs and practices that are successfully leading community colleges.

Check out our video that our own Christa Schoenfeld produced about our program.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_jBogcVbfRE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_jBogcVbfRE)

