



COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION RESPONSES –MAY 9, 2024

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.

- **As a member of the Helena community, how do you see Helena College fulfilling its mission?**
 - Serving the needs of the community through training programs, certificates, and degrees that are needed to support the community workforce.
 - Pride for Helena College in the community. The college feels local.
 - From a healthcare perspective, I see Helena College working collaboratively in preparing health care interested students to have a strong foundation before setting out into work on their own.
 - Career pathways and keeping workforce here.
 - Creativity in the programming. Helena College fills gaps.
 - Soft start/launch pad
 - Dual enrollment/coaching-purpose for students
 - Employees visible in community so college seems local.
 - I see HC fulfilling its mission by way of its community involvement, involvement in the public school system, and partnerships with other colleges for continuing education pathways beyond what the educational offerings it has. The vocational programs HC offers for a broad array of trades and career paths and the schedule flexibility it offers students gives it a huge advantage over similar schools.

- **How can Helena College remain responsive to the needs of the community?**
 - Do a business needs assessment of biggest community employers to see where the gaps in a developed workforce exist.
 - Survey high school kids for areas of interest.
 - Attract more students into the health care community.
 - HC can remain responsive by keeping in touch with students and employers alike to make sure educational offerings are aligned with the needs of students poised to enter the work force in general, or a specific career field.
 - HC has an approachable staff with good customer service
 - Need legal/medical administrative assistant training

- Medical coding training-possibly as a non-credit or credit option.
- COTA and Cosmetology are good examples of being responsive.
- Dual Enrollment helps students test out your learning and helps to receive certifications. It helps ease into things and explore options.
- Helps employers build a network

○ **What value does Helena College bring to the Helena region?**

- Accessibility via reasonable cost, easy application process, hometown feel for students.
- I find them a great partner for teaching and recruitment.
- Hands on learning and small class sizes creates impactful relations and networks. This is a positive for both businesses and students.
- Gives students the opportunity to test out career pathways without committing to four year education.
- Opportunity to stay here; work and go to school affordability.
- Responsiveness to business community to build workforce.
- Upped the game to be on par with Carroll-different programs, but same caliber.
- Works faster to create program in “academia”
- HC Brings the value of an affordable higher education, and an alternative to traditional four year degree pathways.
- Opportunity to try a variety of jobs.
- Hands on learning.

○ **What is your familiarity with and overall impression of the programs/offerings at Helena College?**

- Broad array of programs, but not always easy to locate on the website.
- Could benefit from flyers/booklets and listings to share digitally with employers.
- I’ve gotten to work with Deb in the nursing program.
- I’d like to know more areas where we can collaborate.
- Great branding, visibility and reputation in the community.
- Great resource that is often recommended community-wide.
- Pride and opportunity.
- As a current student I am very familiar with the programs offered at Helena College, as well as the student experience and the employer experience. My impression is that Helena College has a lot of potential to be successful with the proposed initiatives here.
- Approachable.
- Visibility of HC. You know who you’re calling and speaking to.