

ROCKY MOUNTAIN COLLEGE AWARDED \$125,000 NASA GRANT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BILLINGS – Rocky Mountain College has been awarded a \$125,000 appropriation from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to be used for procurement of a broad range of science equipment.

The award was confirmed in a letter this week from NASA Grants Office Kenneth Albright to Kathryn Sabol, RMC director of grants and sponsored programs.

“We’re delighted to learn we’ll be able to obtain new equipment for our growing science programs,” said Michael Mace, RMC president. “We’re grateful to Senators Max Baucus (D-Mont.) and Jon Tester (D-Mont.) for their assistance in guiding us through the application process to a successful award.”

This funding will be used to purchase equipment and supplies that strengthen our undergraduate research efforts and enhance students’ access to advanced science technology. Coinciding with NASA’s recent affiliation with the Environmental Protection Agency, this award will offer Rocky’s faculty and students the opportunity to research topics that are critical to the future of Montana’s ecosystem, including the need to identify the current and future impact of environmental change.

The supplies and equipment to be purchased with this award will benefit the chemistry, geology, biology, physics and environmental science departments. Major purchases will include a zeta potential analyzer to assist with nanotechnology and laser technology instruction, a polarizing microscope and camera for geological assessments, two drosophila culture incubators to support research in organism development, and a portable photosynthesis system designed to measure carbon sequestration in native plant life.

“Every piece of equipment will be well used, and RMC students will find advanced scientific devices to help them with their studies and research,” Mace added. “With the increased development of undergraduate research programs at Rocky, the grant enables broader opportunities.”

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7/15/2010