February 24, 2014
Dear UM faculty members:

Please encourage your most talented, engaged, and curious students to come see me for conversations about national and international scholarship and fellowship opportunities such as the Marshall, Gates Cambridge, DAAD, Truman, Udall, and Goldwater Scholarships and the Jack Kent Cooke Graduate Arts Award. Refer students who have done research projects or written outstanding papers that reveal commitment to the subject or who have contributed with special intelligence and passion to class discussions. Send your advisees who cannot wait to get their hands dirty in service of the world, who have big ideas for redesigning systems such as health care delivery or the legal process, who excel in and are inspired by the arts. Please also give me the names of those students so that I can help encourage them to begin the scholarship conversation.

Your advocacy is essential. You do not have to review every criterion for every scholarship; just tell the students to contact me for the academic coaching process because you see potential. Even if we cannot find the right scholarship match, the process is worthwhile for all dedicated students who want to know about and prepare well for graduate and professional school, internships, service programs, and other opportunities.

It is extremely helpful for both the student and the scholarship program if the student starts on the applications early in his or her academic career, but you may refer all students including graduate students for application coaching at any time. Please also consider recent alumni because they still qualify for several awards. Curriculum, research, service, leadership, and study abroad decisions can require years of development, and successful scholarship applications often build on previous successes. The interview skills required for most major scholarships build through many challenging conversations. Students cannot overcome shyness or learn to handle strong objections to their answers in the few weeks many of them give to the process.

I also need your help to spread the word about scholarship opportunities within your department. Because the criteria for scholarships and fellowships are complex and sometimes change focus, the scholarship program needs as many venues as possible for communication with faculty members about scholarships.

- **I am eager to speak at department meetings.**
- I would be happy to talk with you individually.
- Please confer with your colleagues about your best students at least once a semester and then refer those students to me.
- Please nominate a department scholarship contact if your department does not already have one.
- Please add an updated link on your website to the external scholarship site: [http://www.dhc.umt.edu/scholarships/national.cfm](http://www.dhc.umt.edu/scholarships/national.cfm).
- Please share the following links with your students: [http://scholarships.fatomei.com](http://scholarships.fatomei.com) and [www.grad.illinois.edu/extfellowships](http://www.grad.illinois.edu/extfellowships)
- If you coordinate other programs such as the National Science Foundation, please let me know so that I can direct students to you through the central scholarship site on the Davidson Honors College website. I have already included contact information for the Fulbright and study abroad scholarships such as the Boren and Gilman. You are welcome to send your students to me for additional assistance.

Thank you for all your help on behalf of our students.

For assistance with external scholarships and fellowships and other applications, contact Laure Pengelly Drake, Director of External Scholarships and Advising, as early as possible. laure.pengellydrake@umontana.edu, (406) 243-6140; DHC 102
[http://www.dhc.umt.edu/scholarships/national.cfm](http://www.dhc.umt.edu/scholarships/national.cfm)