

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY BILLINGS: PARTNERS IN BUILDING A STRONGER MONTANA

The State-Tribal Relations Report, entitled “Partners in Building a Stronger Montana,” features Montana State University Billings’ cooperative work with tribes in support of the Governor’s vision for greater economic development opportunities, quality health care and education programs, and improving the effectiveness of governmental operations and services across state agencies .

SUBMISSION DATE: August 8, 2016

STATE AGENCY/DIVISION/PROGRAM: Montana State University
Billings

NARRATIVE COORDINATOR NAME: Reno Charette

PHONE/EMAIL: 406-657-2144, rcharette@msubillings.edu

1. **ACTIVITY NAME: MSUB Powwow**
2. PROGRAM STAFF NAME: Reno Charette PHONE/EMAIL: 406-657-2144,
rcharette@msubillings.edu
3. Select Tribe(s) Involved:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All	<input type="checkbox"/> Fort Belknap
<input type="checkbox"/> Blackfeet	<input type="checkbox"/> Fort Peck
<input type="checkbox"/> Chippewa Cree	<input type="checkbox"/> Little Shell
<input type="checkbox"/> Confederated Salish & Kootenai	<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Cheyenne
<input type="checkbox"/> Crow	
4. Please specify when this state-tribal activity started and if it is ongoing or finalized.

<input type="checkbox"/> Started before FY 2016	<input type="checkbox"/> Started during FY 2016
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ongoing	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed/finalized during FY 2016
5. In 1-2 paragraphs, describe the purpose of the activity, its significance, major accomplishments, and overall impact. Please include a brief description of the state program and its contribution to the activity, and include timelines, cost, location, other partners, etc.

The annual powwow at Montana State University Billings (MSUB) provides an opportunity to showcase and honor American Indian culture on campus for the regional community. The theme of the 48th Annual MSUB Powwow was Generations of a Higher Education Tradition. The production plan for the powwow includes opportunities for student leadership and community service through detailed methods of honoring elders and veterans, fundraising, engaging Native youth in sporting activities, and large event management. Several college courses include the powwow as an activity tied to the curriculum and an internship in Native American Studies is offered annually. The Grand Entry included over 50 flags representing all of Montana's tribal nations, military branches of service, and the nations of our international students. The powwow serves nearly 3000 people for a total of 22 hours in the Alterowitz gym on a budget of \$24,000.00 dollars.
6. If available, provide noteworthy data regarding the impact of your program on tribal communities, such as the number of American Indian people served, jobs created in Indian Country, leveraged funds stimulating economic development, etc.

The powwow serves nearly 3,000 people for 22 event hours staffed by 90 volunteers. Every time in Montana is represented among the audience, dancers, drummers, and volunteers. The powwow is funded by Montana State University Billings, donations from Montana tribes, American Indian organizations, and local private sector businesses.
7. Are there photographs to support the narrative? (x) Yes () No

Please submit photographs in JPEG format, in high resolution (300 DPI). List below the name of each photo file below and specify with the related caption and photo credit.

Photo File Name: powwow_poster_16

Photo Caption (include the name of the event/persons, location, and date): 48th Annual MSUB Powwow. *Generations of a Higher Education Tradition*

Left to Right: Ivy Bird, MSUB Art student, her mother Majel Russell, EMC alumna, grandmother, Sharon Stands, EMC alumna, and great grandmother, Josephine Pease Russell, the first Crow teacher on the Crow Reservation.

Photo Credit: Carmen Price

48th Annual
MSUB POWWOW
GENERATIONS OF A HIGHER EDUCATION TRADITION
April 8-9, 2016
FREE ADMISSION
Montana State University Billings,
Alterowitz Gym
Grand Entry: Friday at 6 p.m. and Saturday at Noon

FOOTHILL
INN
Host Hotel

MSUB
AMERICAN INDIAN OUTREACH

Visit the website for registration, live streaming video, and more information www.msubillings.edu/powwow

The poster features four women standing on a paved path outdoors. From left to right: a young woman in a red and white polka-dot traditional dress holding a bag with a horse illustration; a woman in a dark blue and white polka-dot traditional dress; a woman in a pink and white traditional dress with floral patterns; and a woman in a brown academic gown and cap. The background shows trees with autumn foliage. A QR code and the Foothill Inn logo are in the bottom right corner.

1. **ACTIVITY NAME: Pink Bingo**
2. PROGRAM STAFF NAME: Reno Charette PHONE/EMAIL: 406-657-2144,
rcharette@msubillings.edu
3. Select Tribe(s) Involved:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All	<input type="checkbox"/> Fort Belknap
<input type="checkbox"/> Blackfeet	<input type="checkbox"/> Fort Peck
<input type="checkbox"/> Chippewa Cree	<input type="checkbox"/> Little Shell
<input type="checkbox"/> Confederated Salish & Kootenai	<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Cheyenne
<input type="checkbox"/> Crow	
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<input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Completed/finalized during FY 2016
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MSUB collaborates with Smoke Signals, an alliance of American Indian professionals in Billings, to host the annual Pink Bingo event on campus. The Pink Bingo event is funded by Riverstone Health and donations from the community. The event provides cancer prevention awareness instruction for 170 American Indian women from Billings.
6. If available, provide noteworthy data regarding the impact of your program on tribal communities, such as the number of American Indian people served, jobs created in Indian Country, leveraged funds stimulating economic development, etc.

The May 2016 Pink Bingo event served 170 American Indian women. Of this group 27 were financially eligible to receive cancer screenings, 10 new contacts were added to the participant database, 27 were likely eligible to receive funding for additional cancer screenings, 97 American Indian women with insurance were educated on cancer awareness while also being eligible for funding that provides healthcare navigation services.

The number of American Indian women served helped Riverstone Healthcare to maintain their funding levels while other regions are losing funding. Additionally, more American Indian women are funded for healthcare services they need.
7. Are there photographs to support the narrative? (x) Yes () No
Please submit photographs in JPEG format, in high resolution (300 DPI). List below the name of each photo file below and specify with the related caption and photo credit.



Photo File Name: Bingo 1

Photo Caption (include the name of the event/persons, location, and date): May 10, 2016.

Pink Bingo is Fun at MSUB. Left: Theresa Sends Part Home. Crow tribal member

Photo Credit: Donna Healy



Photo File Name: Bingo card IMG_7688

Photo Caption (include the name of the event/persons, location, and date): May 10, 2016.

Pink Bingo at MSUB combines cancer awareness, fellowship, and fun.

Photo Credit: Donna Healy



Photo File Name: Woman who gave prayer IMG_7753

Photo Caption (include the name of the event/persons, location, and date): May 10, 2016.

Pink Bingo at MSUB is where friends and family learn about cancer awareness. Left: Rhea Goes Ahead, Crow. Right: Jeannie Bearcrane, Crow.

Photo Credit: Donna Healy



Photo File Name: Savannah Siquah Selfie

Photo Caption (include the name of the event/persons, location, and date): May 10, 2016.
Pink Bingo at MSUB is for all Native women who want cancer awareness information.
Savannah Siquah, Shawna Cooper (MSUB Alumna), and 170 American Indian women
participating

Photo Credit: Savannah Siquah

1. **ACTIVITY NAME: Elk River Writing Project**
2. PROGRAM STAFF NAME: Tami Haaland PHONE/EMAIL: 406-657-2948,
thaaland@msubillings.edu
3. Select Tribe(s) Involved:
 - () All
 - () Blackfeet
 - () Chippewa Cree
 - () Confederated Salish & Kootenai
 - () Crow
 - () Fort Belknap
 - () Fort Peck
 - () Little Shell
 - () Northern Cheyenne
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The Elk River Writing Project at Montana State-University-Billings (MSUB) is designed for individuals interested in teaching writing in public or private schools, grades pre K-12 and at the university in all curricular subjects. The program proposes to provide novice and experienced teachers in all content areas with knowledge, pedagogy, and attitudes about writing, about composing processes across the disciplines, and about cultural ways of knowing specific to place. Our place is Billings and Eastern Montana, where many teachers in rural communities and reservations are underserved in terms of professional development; our purpose is to continue addressing this need. Name choice for this fledgling site of the National Writing Project reflects our respect for tribal histories and Indian perspectives; our cultural advisors, including Reno Charette, Director of American Indian Outreach at MSUB tell us that each Montana Tribe calls the Yellowstone River “Elk River” in their own languages.

The added Indian Education for All (IEFA) element is to write in places of significance to Native peoples, to be immersed in a place that has connection both to the self and to Native cultures. The program is based upon current research, professional association guidelines, and informed practices in the teaching of writing across the curriculum, as well as knowledge of the Montana Common Core Standards (MCCS). These programs will prepare teachers to design, implement, and evaluate methods of integrating writing instruction into content area and grade level instruction. Through reading/writing workshops, role-playing, small group/large group discussions, model presentations, mini-presentations, cultural investigations, and model instructor/participant demonstrations, these programs create a community of writers and readers who reflect upon their own and their students’ cultures, language, literacy, and learning.

The summer institute ran from June 13 through July 1st at Montana State University Billings and included eleven participating teachers.

Partner organizations include Montana State University Billings, Montana OPI – Indian Education Division, and Billings Public Schools – Indian Education Department. Grant funding from these partners, particularly OPI, allowed Elk River Writing Project to pay stipends to the three member leadership team and offer the 7 credit class to participants for \$285.

6. If available, provide noteworthy data regarding the impact of your program on tribal communities, such as the number of American Indian people served, jobs created in Indian Country, leveraged funds stimulating economic development, etc.

Billings Public Schools serves a significant urban Indian community; 1,300 students in Billings identify as American Indian. Ten of the 11 Elk River Writing Project participants are educators in Billings, and the other teacher works in Columbus, Montana. Using school enrollment data and the percentage of American Indian students in each participant's school building, it is estimated that 300 American Indian students will be impacted in the next year. Furthermore, National Writing Project teachers aim to be teacher leaders in their respective schools, districts and throughout the state. Many of their colleagues from previous summer institutes hosted by the Montana Writing Project present regularly at the annual Montana Educator Conference and the Indian Education for All Best Practices conference, in addition to sharing with professional learning communities in their schools. In this way, the strategies and philosophies of Elk River Writing Project have a broad reaching and significant impact on teachers and their students across Montana. The program focuses on approaches to closing the achievement gap for American Indian and other marginalized groups through multicultural education practices, placed based pedagogy and raising student voices.

Participant testimonies allow further insight into the positive impact of Elk River Writing Project on their American Indian students and their communities.

"Probably the most important thing that I take away from the Elk River Writing Project is a new knowledge and respect for a Native American history that I barely even knew existed, as well as a renewed desire to open more minds to the incorporation of IEFA in our school." Mary Bummer, Columbus Middle/High School

"This course has provided tools to help me bring social justice and world issues into the classroom. I think I've had a fear of touching on some issues because of the culture in some classes, but throughout this process I've learned safe ways to teach and discuss these issues in the classroom. For example, Steve Macartney's debate match is a wonderful way for students to practice arguing two sides of a controversial idea or issue. I also enjoyed studying about media's role in how we view people and society. I

came out of this writing project with a plethora of ideas for my students to grow as writers and critical thinkers." Ken Burke, West High

The Elk River Writing project is part of the National Writing Project, but it's self-sustaining and operates through university support and local funding sources. MSUB provided a one-time technical assistance fee of \$3,500 and \$500 yearly sponsorship fee.

7. Are there photographs to support the narrative? (X) Yes () No
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Photo File Name: 2016 Group Photo

Photo Caption (include the name of the event/persons, location, and date): 2016 Elk River Writing Project at Chief Plenty Coups State Park on the Crow Reservation.

Back row: (left to right) Cindy Welch, Marcia Beaumont, Brittany Alberson, Steve Macartney, Cheryl Schamp, Brittany Mion, Ken Burke, Cindy Craddock

Front Row: Wendy Tyree, Mary Bummer, Lander Sulser, Shannon Salle, Josie Ball

Photo Credit: Steve Macartney



Photo File Name: Elias Arrow Creek

Photo Caption (include the name of the event/persons, location, and date): 2016 Elk River Writing Project. Listening to Crow oral historian, Elias Goes Ahead at the site of the Battle of Arrow Creek on the Crow Reservation.

Photo Credit: Steve Macartney



Photo File Name: Leadership Plenty Coups

Photo Caption (include the name of the event/persons, location, and date): 2016 Elk River Writing Project. Leadership team: Wendy Tyree, Steve Macartney, and Marcia Beaumont at Plenty Coups State Park on the Crow Reservation.

Photo Credit: Steve Macartney



Photo File Name: Class Work Cahoon Poetry

Photo Caption (include the name of the event/persons, location, and date): 2016 Elk River Writing Project. Summer Institute at MSUB

Photo Credit: Steve Macartney

1. **ACTIVITY NAME: Alumni Relations**
2. PROGRAM STAFF NAME: Sarah Brockel PHONE/EMAIL: 406-247-5780,
sbrockel@msubillings.edu
3. Select Tribe(s) Involved:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All	<input type="checkbox"/> Fort Belknap
<input type="checkbox"/> Blackfeet	<input type="checkbox"/> Fort Peck
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The MSUB Alumni Relations recognized the achievements of two American Indian alumni and their significant impact in the communities they serve. Recognition for their distinguished service sets them apart as role models for other American Indian people seeking an opportunity for academic and career growth that Montana State University Billings might provide. The awards these two alumni received are indicators of the quality of education that MSUB affords. The impact of these distinctive awards has the potential to reach a vast majority of American Indian people across Montana through social media, newspaper, and TV publicity.

Joel Simpson, Exceptional Achievement. Simpson graduated with both an Associate's degree and Bachelor's degree in Rehabilitation and Related Services in 2011 from MSUB. He received a Master's degree in Social Work in 2014 from Walla Walla University. After receiving his Master's degree, he began using his education to assist serial inebriates, Indigenous peoples, and the homeless get the treatment they need to overcome drug and alcohol dependence in downtown Billings. A social advocate, Simpson is changing the lives of those affected by addiction and changing awareness and bias in the community as a whole, relying on his cultural background to reach out and build trust and rapport among people. Simpson is a member of the Appalooke nation and belongs to a family of EMC/MSUB graduates.

Kassie Runsabove , 40 Under Forty. Runsabove graduated with a BS Health & Human Performance degree in 2008. She is currently the Child Ready program manager, cultural liaison for St. Vincent Healthcare. The Montana Emergency Medical Services for Children program partnered with St. Vincent Healthcare to facilitate the Child Ready grant-funded program. The program was established to regionalize pediatric

emergent care in Montana. In her previous job with RiverStone Health, Runsabove did outreach on the Crow and Northern Cheyenne reservations as a preventative health specialist with the Montana Cancer Screening Program. Runsabove's name in the Gros Ventre, White Clay language is Nitowunh'eeih, or First Kill. She is a champion fancy dancer and avid beader who makes elaborate dance regalia for herself and her children. They travel across the country to participate in tribal powwows.

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Photo File Name: simpson

Photo Caption (include the name of the event/persons, location, and date): 2016 Outstanding Alumni Award for Exceptional Achievement – Joel Simpson, Crow tribal member

Photo Credit: provided by Joel Simpson



Photo File Name: Runsabove-sm

Photo Caption (include the name of the event/persons, location, and date): 2016 40 Under Forty – Kassie Runsabove, White Clay tribal member.

Photo Credit: Billings Gazette

12. Do you have any suggestions on how to improve the Governor's Tribal Relations Report?
None at this time.