

**2016 GOVERNOR'S TRIBAL RELATIONS REPORT – AGENCY NARRATIVE REPORTING FORM  
(FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD JULY 1, 2015 - JUNE 30, 2016)**

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**The State-Tribal Relations Report, entitled “Partners in Building a Stronger Montana,” features the State’s 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.**

1. SUBMISSION DATE: August 5, 2016
2. STATE AGENCY/DIVISION/PROGRAM: University of Montana Western
3. NARRATIVE COORDINATOR NAME: Ilene Cohen  
PHONE/EMAIL: 406-683-7311, Ilene.cohen@umwestern.edu
  
4. ACTIVITY NAME (name electronic file with this name): Native American Scholars program
5. PROGRAM STAFF NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE/EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_
  
6. 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	
  
7. Please specify when this state-tribal activity started and if it is ongoing or finalized.  

<input type="checkbox"/> Started before FY 2016	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Started during FY 2016
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ongoing	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed/finalized during FY 2016

***In the next sections, please make sure to spell out acronyms. It is also necessary to acknowledge the source when the text, data and photographs were provided by an entity outside of state government.***

8. 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.

**Native American Scholars Program**

This initiative was launched in the spring of 2016 at the request of the Commissioner’s office with the intent to improve access and retention of Native American students. Two students were identified as the mentors for the project and they made significant progress in the spring semester. They did outreach to all identified Native American students through email communications and hosting two open discussion meetings. The mentors attended a state wide summit in Bozeman. As a result of the open meetings and conversations with both the Chancellor and Provost the following recommendations were made and will be implemented during the fall 2016 year; a meet and greet session for Native American Students and families during orientation, solidify a space that is designated for Native American students to use as their own, the Native American club will be re-instated for this year, continue outreach to new and returning students so their concerns are heard and addressed.

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This is an ongoing project. The costs currently are for stipends for the mentors and transportation to meetings. There is ongoing conversations about how to fund this project to address the needs of the students.

**Outreach through Admissions**

Last year as part of the effort to recruit more Native American students, the admissions staff participated in 7 tribal fairs through our affiliation with MPSEOC (Montana Post-Secondary Educational Opportunities Council). In addition each year the admissions recruiters visit between 5 and 10 high schools on reservations throughout the state. Additionally, Gear Up, Talent Search and Upward Bound groups regularly visit the campus and are provided with tours, presentations etc. to education them about opportunities related to higher education.

**Partnership with Blackfeet Community College**

In fall 2015 UMW education professors, Drs. Jen Gillard and Vikki Howard, met with Dee Hoyt, BCC Early Childhood Director, to develop a 2+2 P-3 agreement with Blackfeet (BCC) Community College.

Since the first meeting, Jen and Vikki have traveled to Browning five times to meet with prospective students, community stakeholders, Browning School District administrators and teachers, and BCC administrators and teachers. UMW faculty and staff (Jen Gilliard, Vikki Howard, Barbara Julian, Dawn Zimdars) have met with a total of 48 people, most of whom were American Indian, interested in completing a Bachelor’s in ECE: Pre–K through Grade 3. Consequently, 18 students from the Browning area have applied for admission to UMW. UMW is scheduled to teach three, hybrid, Early Childhood Education courses to students in Browning fall semester 2016.

9. 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.

10. Are there photographs to support the narrative? ( ) 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:

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

Photo Credit:

12. Do you have any suggestions on how to improve the Governor’s Tribal Relations Report?