

**2017 GOVERNOR'S TRIBAL RELATIONS REPORT – AGENCY NARRATIVE REPORTING FORM  
(FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD JULY 1, 2016 - JUNE 30, 2017)**

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**Purpose: The State-Tribal Relations Report 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.**

1. SUBMISSION DATE:
2. STATE AGENCY/DIVISION/PROGRAM: Montana State University Billings
3. NARRATIVE COORDINATOR NAME: Reno Charette      PHONE/EMAIL:  
[rcharette@msubillings.edu](mailto:rcharette@msubillings.edu). (406) 657-2144
  
4. ACTIVITY NAME: Annual Pink Ribbon Bingo
5. PROGRAM STAFF NAME: Savannah Siquah      PHONE/EMAIL: (406) 651-6515  
[savannah.sin@riverstonehealth.org](mailto:savannah.sin@riverstonehealth.org)
  
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Started before FY 2017	<input type="checkbox"/> Started during FY 2017
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ongoing/Long-Term	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed/finalized during FY 2017

*In the next sections, please make sure to spell out acronyms and acknowledge the source when the materials (text/data/photographs) were provided by an entity outside of state government.*

8. In 1-2 paragraphs, describe the purpose of the state-tribal activity, its significance, major accomplishments, and overall impact. Please include a brief description of the state program contributing to the activity, timelines, cost and monetary contributions, location, other partners, etc.

MSUB collaborates with RiverStone Health, St. Vincent's Health Care, Billings Clinic, Planned Parenthood and 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, Department of Public Health and Human Services, Montana Cancer Coalition, Montana American Indian Women's Health Coalition, and donations from the community. The event provides cancer prevention awareness instruction for 200 American Indian women from Billings. Event planning was one year and the budget was \$5,100.

All 200 women were educated on cancer screenings services, cancer screening guidelines, cancer statistics in Montana, where women could go to get screenings done, diabetes prevention, and how to access the marketplace to enroll in the Affordable Care Act. Furthermore, women in attendance were educated about free cancer screening services available through the statewide Montana Cancer Screening Program.

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9. In 1-2 paragraphs, describe any new rule, policy or law (include bill number) related to your program that impact state-tribal relations, Indian people and tribal communities.

Governor Steve Bullock's issue of an executive order to shrink the life expectancy gap between American Indians and Non-Natives in the State of Montana relates to our program's mission to help improve quality health care and education programs for American Indians.

10. 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 2017 Pink Bingo event served 200 American Indian women. Of this group 22 were financially eligible to receive cancer screenings, 10 new contacts were added to the participant database, 44 were likely eligible to receive funding for additional cancer screenings, 124 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.

11. Are there photographs to support the narrative? ( X ) Yes ( ) No

*Please submit photographs in JPEG format, in high resolution (300 DPI). Please provide below the file name, caption and credit for each photograph.*

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**Photo File Name:** Image\_bingogamestart\_2017.05.10

**Photo Caption:** Savannah Siquah from RiverStone Health and Amber Cummins from Little Big Horn College bingo announcing. Nona Main from Planned Parenthood holding up the bingo card. 2017 Pink Ribbon Bingo at City College on MSU-Billings Campus on 5/10/17.

**Photo Credit:** Donna Healy



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**Photo File Name:** Image\_bingogamestart\_2017.05.10

**Photo Caption:** Heather Amyotte and Patricia Rogers playing Pink Ribbon Cancer Bingo at City College-MSU-Billings campus on 5/10/17.

**Photo Credit:** Donna Healy



**Photo File Name:** Image\_Panoramic Blgs Bingo\_2017.05.10

**Photo Caption:** 200 women playing Pink Ribbon Cancer Bingo at City College-MSU-Billings campus on 5/10/17.

**Photo Credit:** Eleanor Kindness

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**Photo File Name:** Image\_Playingbingo\_2017.05.10

**Photo Caption:** 200 women playing Pink Ribbon Cancer Bingo at City College-MSU-Billings campus on 5/10/17.

**Photo Credit:** Donna Healy

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

I do not have any suggestions on how to improve the Governor's Tribal Relations Report.



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**Purpose: The State-Tribal Relations Report 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.**

1. SUBMISSION DATE:
2. STATE AGENCY/DIVISION/PROGRAM: Montana State University Billings
3. NARRATIVE COORDINATOR NAME: Reno Charette      PHONE/EMAIL:  
[rcharette@msubillings.edu](mailto:rcharette@msubillings.edu). (406) 657-2144
  
4. ACTIVITY NAME *Annual MSUB Powwow*
5. PROGRAM STAFF NAME: Reno Charette      PHONE/EMAIL:  
[rcharette@msubillings.edu](mailto:rcharette@msubillings.edu). (406) 657-2144
  
6. Select Tribe(s) Involved:  

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8. In 1-2 paragraphs, describe the purpose of the state-tribal activity, its significance, major accomplishments, and overall impact. Please include a brief description of the state program contributing to the activity, timelines, cost and monetary contributions, 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 event is managed by the American Indian Outreach office in partnership with other MSUB offices, colleges, and community sponsors. Donations to help support the powwow came from the Shakopee Mdewakanton Tribe, Fort Belknap Casino, local businesses, and individuals totaling \$7,600.00 of the \$28,041.22 powwow budget. The planning and outreach for the powwow began in July 2016, a student intern contributed 135 hours during the spring semester, and the event took place on April 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. The theme of the 49th Annual MSUB Powwow was *Blessing the Heartbeat*. 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 large event management. One hundred thirty six student volunteers helped produce the 2017 powwow. Five college courses include the powwow as an activity tied to the curriculum. An intern in Native American Studies was part of the leadership team managing the vendor outreach and onsite services. The Grand Entry included over 50 flags representing all of Montana’s tribal nations, military branches of service, and the nations of our international

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students. The powwow serves nearly 3000 people for a total of 22 hours in the Alterowitz gym on a budget of \$28,000.00 dollars.

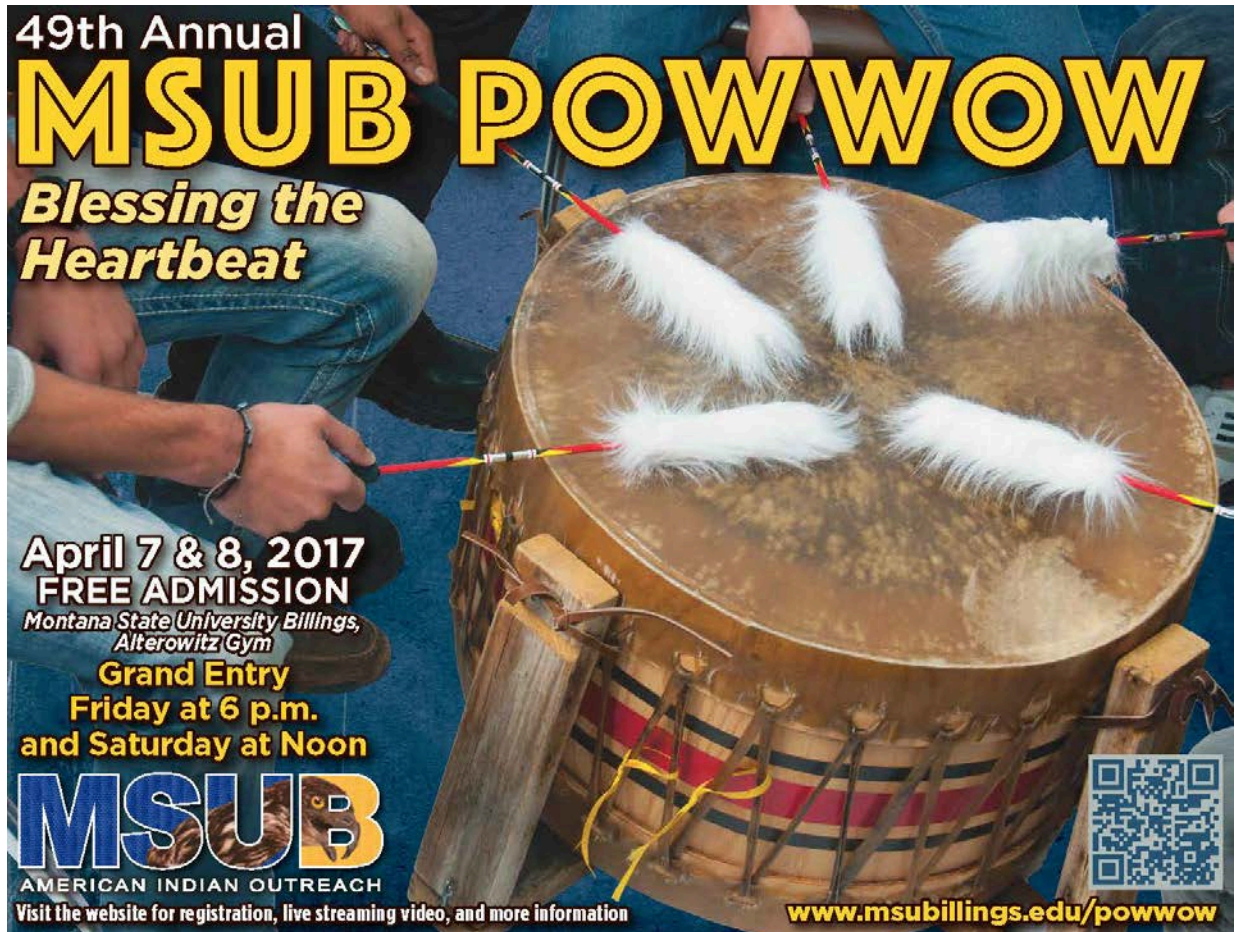
9. In 1-2 paragraphs, describe any new rule, policy or law (include bill number) related to your program that impact state-tribal relations, Indian people and tribal communities.
10. If available, provide noteworthy data regarding the impact of your program on tribal communities, such as the number of American Indian people served, jobs created in Indian Country, leveraged funds stimulating economic development, etc.
- School District II, offered in-service training for 20 teachers at the MSUB powwow. SD II serves 2,000 American Indian children. The training enhanced their expertise in Native culture.
  - 3000, mostly American Indian, people attend the powwow and experience MSUB hospitality while enjoying a college campus.
  - 136 domestic and international students gained greater cultural competency skills that will help prepare them for working in a state with a large number of American Indians.

11. Are there photographs to support the narrative? (X) Yes ( ) No  
*Please submit photographs in JPEG format, in high resolution (300 DPI). Please provide below the file name, caption and credit for each photograph.*

Photo File Name: poster\_2017\_proof

Photo Caption (include the name of the event/persons, location, and date): 2017 MSUB Powwow: Blessing the Heartbeat, Alterowitz gym, April 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

Photo Credit: Blair Koch, MSUB University Relations




**49th Annual**  
**MSUB POWWOW**  
*Blessing the Heartbeat*

**April 7 & 8, 2017**  
**FREE ADMISSION**  
*Montana State University Billings,  
Alterowitz Gym*  
**Grand Entry**  
**Friday at 6 p.m.**  
**and Saturday at Noon**

**MSUB**  
AMERICAN INDIAN OUTREACH  
Visit the website for registration, live streaming video, and more information

[www.msubillings.edu/powwow](http://www.msubillings.edu/powwow)



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



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**Purpose: The State-Tribal Relations Report 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.**

1. SUBMISSION DATE: June 19, 2017
2. STATE AGENCY/DIVISION/PROGRAM: MSUB
3. NARRATIVE COORDINATOR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE/EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_
4. ACTIVITY NAME (*use acronym for the electronic file name*): Elk River Writing Project (ERWP)
5. PROGRAM STAFF NAME: Tami Haaland & Glenda McCarthy PHONE/EMAIL: 406-657-2948
6. 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 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 National Writing Project site 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**

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 runs from June 12 through June 23 at Montana State University Billings and included fourteen participating teachers. The residency will be followed by online work and a final day of presentations on August 14, 2017.

Partner organizations include Montana State University Billings, Montana OPI – Indian Education Division, and Billings Public Schools – Indian Education Department and the National Writing Project. Grant funding from these partners, particularly NWP and 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.

9. In 1-2 paragraphs, describe any new rule, policy or law (include bill number) related to your program that impact state-tribal relations, Indian people and tribal communities.

Billings Public Schools serves a significant urban Indian community; 1,600 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 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 fact, an Elk River Writing Project teacher leader has been the recipient of the Teresa Veltkamp Excellence in IEFA Advocacy Award for the past three years (2017, Marcia Beaumont; 2016, Glenda McCarthy; 2015, Casey Olsen). 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. Elk River Writing Project pays a \$750 yearly renewal fee.**

**In 2017, Elk River Writing Project will host another course for the first time. Worlds Apart but Not Strangers will be held on the MSUB campus July 16-22. Sponsored by the Memorial Library in New York and Humanities Montana, this program carries 3 graduate credits in English for a registration fee of \$135. Twenty-one participants are enrolled with a waiting list for next year. They will learn about the Nazi Holocaust and histories of Native American genocide, survival and resilience. At present Elk River Writing Project plans to offer this program for a minimum of three years.**

**Further, during the 2017-18 academic year, thirteen high school and middle school teachers are participating in the College Ready Writing Program which focuses on argumentative writing in rural and high needs schools including reservation and border town schools. These participants will receive 3 graduate credits of English in spring 2018.**

10. 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.

**Participants in our programs come from Billings and surrounding areas, including Hardin, Laurel, Lewistown and Colstrip. We have one enrolled Crow tribal member in the Invitational Leadership Institute and we estimate that our teachers reach approximately 300 native students (please see more explanation in item 9.**

11. Are there photographs to support the narrative? (  ) Yes (  ) No  
*Please submit photographs in JPEG format, in high resolution (300 DPI). Please provide below the file name, caption and credit for each photograph.*

Photo File Name: Lisa Borgstrom

Photo Caption (include the name of the event/persons, location, and date): Lisa Borgstrom participating in the first day writing marathon at Four dances recreational Area overlooking Elk River (the Yellowstone), June 12, 2017.



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Photo Credit: Glenda McCarthy

Photo File Name: Participants in 2017 Invitational Leadership Institute Post Writing Social

Photo Caption: Elk River Writing Project participants and alumni at a post-writing marathon social.

L to R: Gaye McNeile, Glenda McCarthy, Thomas Smithlin, Daniel Johnson, Bridgett Paddock  
Stephen Macartney, Marcia Beaumont.

Photo Credit: Darci Davis

Photo File Name: Jacee Kreuger

Photo Caption: Jacee Kreuger responding to analysis of a shared text.

Photo Credit: Glenda McCarthy

Photo File Name: Participants in 2017 Invitational Leadership Institute Gallery of Native American  
History Identity Perspective

Photo Caption: Participants experiencing the gallery of images and documents related to Native  
American history, identity, experiences.

Photo Credit: Glenda McCarthy

Photo File Name: Participants in 2017 Invitational Leadership Institute Gallery of Native American  
History Identity Perspective 2

Photo Caption: Participants experiencing the gallery of images and documents related to Native  
American history, identity, experiences.

Photo Credit: Glenda McCarthy

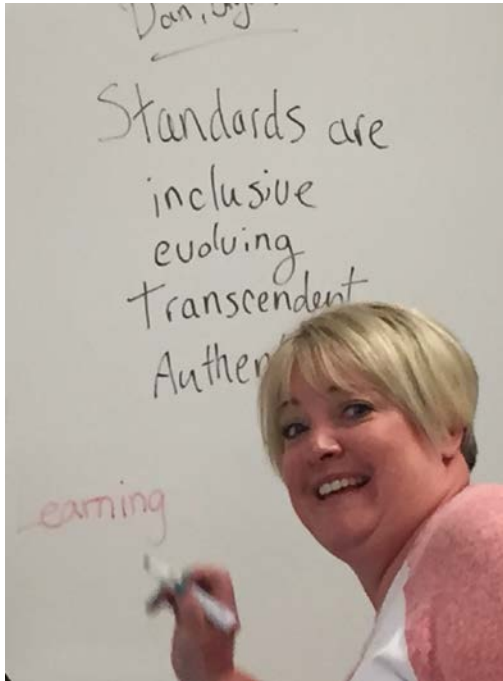
Photo File Name: Participants in 2017 Invitational Leadership Institute Friday Social

Photo Caption: Friday social and peer response activity. L to R: Salah Alfailakawi, Daniel Johnson,  
Bridgett Paddock, Gaye McNeil, Lindi DeMars, Shea Mangold, Cheyenne Aldrich, Lisa  
Borgstrom, Daniel Charlton, Marcia Beaumont, Leslie Metzger, Darci Davis, Lynn Lensing,  
Glenda McCarthy, Jacee Kreuger, Bryant Mawyer, Erick Meyer.

Photo Credit: Glenda McCarthy

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