

**2017 Governor’s Tribal Relations Report—Agency Narrative Reporting Form
(for the reporting period July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017)**

1. SUBMISSION DATE: June 19th, 2017
2. STATE AGENCY/DIVISION/PROGRAM: Montana State University Northern
3. NARRATIVE COORDINATOR NAME: Cristina Estrada-Underwood
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4. ACTIVITY NAME (name electronic file with this name): MSUN 2017 Tribal Relations Report
5. PROGRAM STAFF NAME: _____ PHONE/EMAIL: _____
6. Select the Tribe (s) Involved
 - All
 - Blackfeet
 - Chippewa Cree
 - Confederated Salish & Kootenai
 - Crow
 - Fort Belknap
 - Fort Peck
 - Little Shell
 - Northern Cheyenne
7. Please specify when this state-tribal activity started and if it is ongoing or finalized
 - Started before FY 2016
 - Ongoing
 - Started during FY 2016
 - Completed/finalized during FY 2016
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. Make sure to spell out acronyms. Acknowledge the source if the information/story was written by an entity outside of state government.**

- **Outreach to the Havre Public Schools**

During American Indian Heritage Week 2016, approximately 160 children from the Lincoln McKinley School visited MSUN to learn about the significance of the tipi for the Northern Plains Indian nations. The conversations took place inside the tipi that was raised for the observance. Students also had the opportunity to visit the Louis and Antoinette Hagner Museum of the Northern Plains Indians, played traditional Indian games, and enjoyed story

time. These activities were sponsored by staff from the Little River Institute and staff from the Louis and Antoinette Hagner Museum of the Northern Plains Indians.

Also, in the month of March approximately 40 children from the Rocky Boy's Head Start visited the Northern Indian Plains Indians Museum; they had story time, and worked on a coloring activity. For that occasion, the event was sponsored by the museum staff.

- **Partnership with Native Americans (PWNA) Emergency Funding**

In 2015, Partnership with Native Americans (PWNA) granted \$12,000 to MSUN to increase its ability to retain Native American students who may be at risk out of school due to unforeseen financial emergencies related to safety or health, personal, and family emergencies, and in general drop-out prevention. There is eligibility criteria and since volunteerism and giving back to the community are key values at PWNA, students who receive emergency help are asked to volunteer on campus with an activity. 2016-2017 was year two of a three year grant.

- **Louis Stokes Alliance for the Minority Participation Scholarship**

The purpose of the Louis Stokes Alliance for the Minority Participation Scholarship is to support minorities in the STEM fields. Aside from being a minority, scholars also need to be enrolled in a STEM related degree and have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5. The amount of the scholarship received each semester, correlates with the GPA of the scholar: the higher the GPA, the higher the stipend received. Currently MSUN has two female Native American scholars in this initiative, one completing a Bachelor's in Civil Engineering, and one a Bachelor's in Biology.

- **The Artist of the Month, Native American Artists Exhibitions**

Each month, the Office of Diversity Awareness and Multicultural Programs (ODAMP) invites regional artists to exhibit their paintings, photographs, or poems at the Multicultural Center. Five of the six artists who exhibited this past school year were Native American. In September Lisa Lang (Yaghwlaanas clan, Haida Raven-Subclan-Two Finned Killer Whale) presented her haida art with *Giftng—Ravens Always Get It Done Right*. In October, Leonor Stiffarm (Gros Ventre) presented her poem *Oh Woman of the Mist!*, and in November, Leland Stewart (Crow, Whistling Water Clan and member of The High Hawk Society) presented his watercolor, *Serenade*. The following spring semester, Joe Cochran (Kainai Nation) presented his oil *Moving Camp* and in April, Justin Goggles (Northern Arapaho) presented his drawings in a collage titled, *Her First Ride, Let Her Fly, Spirit, and Northern Rodeo Team*.

- **Native American Studies Department**

This year the Native American Studies Department, the Vande Bogart Library, and the Chancellor's Lecture Series sponsored the exhibition *Indivisible, African-Native American Lives in the Americas*. This exhibition from the Smithsonian Institution was at the Northern campus from the middle of January until the end of April. MSUN Native American Studies Adjunct Faculty Yvonne Tiger was in charge of the presentation during the opening. Both the lecture and the presentation described encounters between American Indians and Africans

(later African Americans) and these encounters created mixed heritage peoples who have endured oppression, how their stories have been intertwined, and what is the situation of racial policies that dictate which groups of people belong to specific communities.

Dr. Paul McKenzie-Jones, Assistant Professor of Native American Studies currently is a consultant for the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF). The mission of this organization is ... “building a movement for Community Rights and Rights of Nature to advance democratic, economic, social, and environmental rights – building upward from the grassroots to the state, federal, and international level.” Dr. McKenzie-Jones' work concerns how Rights of Nature laws proposed by CELDF affect and strengthen tribal sovereignty.

- **Conversations about Native American Topics in *Diverse Northern***

Diverse Northern is a radio show sponsored by the Office of Diversity Awareness and Multicultural Programs (ODAMP) every Thursday at 11.00 am during the school year. The shows' mission is to promote multiculturalism through music in languages other than English and enlightening conversations with guests from the campus community as well as the local community. This year, Dr. Paul McKenzie-Jones participated in two shows, one in the fall, and one in the spring. In the fall semester, the topic was *NODAPL*. Some of the aspects that were discussed were treaty rights, settlement, litigation, adjudication, ownership of water reserves, major issues between Standing Rock and the Dakota Access Pipe Line, protection of sacred sites, the situation on the camp (front line), the role of social media, and outcomes of this experience. During spring semester, Dr. McKenzie-Jones presented the topic *Rights of Nature*. The aspects that were covered in this occasion were understanding the concept of rights of nature, how this concept differs from the one from indigenous people, the role of new technologies, examples and consequences of abuse of nature by mankind, measures some indigenous communities are taking, how our current legal system does or does not protect the environment, and some of the actions we can take to protect nature. The *NODAPL* show aired November 11, 2016 at 11.00 am and the *Rights of Nature*, aired March 16, 2017 at 11.00 am through KNMC, 90.1 FM Northern Montana College. The podcast for the *Rights of Nature* show is available at <https://www.mixcloud.com/DiverseNorthern/paul-mckenzie-jones-rights-of-nature/>

Additionally, on this same radio show, MSUN graduate Shaneen Raining Bird (from Rocky Boy, MT, Criminal Justice Program) and currently working as a child advocate, was one of the guests. Her topic was about her personal journey as a woman in a degree that is for the most part male dominated. Some of the aspects she referred to were her personal motivations to choose Criminal Justice, why it is important that women join this field, what were some of the obstacles she encountered, and how she overcame them as well as what are her future professional plans. This showed aired, Feb. 1st, 2017 at 11.00 am. A podcast is available at <https://www.mixcloud.com/DiverseNorthern/northern-ball-becka-stone-women-in-male-dominated-fields-in-cj-shaneen-raining-bird/>

- **TAACCCT 3, Fort Peck Polycom System, Diesel Program**

Thanks to funding from the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) Grant Program, Gear Up, focused on trades, students at Fort Peck Community College since Fall 2015 have been able to take classes between the MSUN campus and Fort Peck Community College and gain credits to complete a Certificate of Applied Science (CAS) as well as their Associate of Applied Science (AAS), and Bachelor

of Science (BS) degree in Diesel Technology. This collaboration has been very successful, since there is a Northern instructor based in Wolf Point using the facility and broadcasting to MSUN in Havre. Students traveled to MSUN to do their lab classes and test their level of comfort in an environment out of their community to start their transition to Northern. Three of the three students who started this cohort have graduated and two will be attending Northern this coming school year 2017-2018.

- **TAACCCT 4, Stone Child College, Pathways for Seamless Workforce Certificates and Programs in Allied Health**
Thanks to funding from the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) Grant Program, Montana Health Care, focused on health professions, collaborative meetings between Montana State University Northern and Stone Child College (SCC) have been taking place. MSUN Department of Nursing has supported SCC facilitating contact with an MSUN instructor, so he could teach Emergency Medical Services (EMS) at SCC.
- **State wide Nursing Meetings**
During this past year, state-wide nursing monthly meetings were consistently scheduled. The purpose of these meetings is to assess the needs of all nursing schools in the state (including Blackfeet Community College and Salish Kootenai College) to coordinate supporting efforts to conduct needs assessments, revise curriculum, and in the future potentially share clinical sites. Aaniiih Nakoda College's Director of Nursing also serves on the Department of Nursing's Advisory Board and attends these meetings regularly.
- **The Teachers of Native Nations Project, Fort Peck Teacher Training Program**
This is a memorandum of understanding between Fort Peck Community College (FPCC) and MSUN to prepare American Indian Teachers to serve their reservations. Classes were delivered in a variety of formats to better meet students' needs: polycom and online. Three students finished their Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education with a minor in reading in Fall 2017 and are currently working in the Poplar School District. At this time, there are six students who are at the pre-education level, meaning they have not yet met the requirements to enter into Level I of teacher education program. Although this grant ended in the fall of 2016, MSUN will continue working with the remaining students until they are ready to graduate.
- **Indian Education Professional Development Program (IEPD), Stone Child College**
The focus of this professional development grant is to increase the number of Native American teachers by preparing Indian students to become certified teachers or earn a Graduate Degree in Education enabling them to fill documented areas of need in local schools. MSUN is one of two schools that partner with Stone Child College (SCC) for this grant. MSUN students who meet the qualifications for the grant can pursue either undergraduate or graduate degrees in education. Currently, one undergraduate student and

one graduate student at MSUN have met the SCC grant requirements and are enrolled in the grant program.

In addition, MSUN continues its articulation agreement with SCC in undergraduate teacher education. Students complete their general education and pre-requisite courses at SCC and then transfer to MSUN to complete the last two years of upper division coursework. Classes are delivered to students in a variety of formats, including face-to-face, online, or through polycom/webex).

- **Student Participates in the 253rd American Chemists' Society National Meeting and Expo in San Francisco, CA.**

William R. Cochran (from the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation) participated in this meeting with the poster “Development of Robust Covalently-linked N-Heterocyclic Carbenes and Silica.” William is a student research assistant at the Advanced Fuels Center. The abstract of his poster is: “N-heterocyclic carbenes (NHC) have been used widely in catalysis, both as catalysts themselves and as ligands for transition metal catalysts. Therefore, a robustly linked, heterogeneous NHC on an inert support is highly desirable for heterogeneous catalysis. Efforts in creating such NHCs has been reported in the literature via chemisorption on silica through ionized derivatives, triethoxysilyl-functionalization of the NHC backbone for grafting onto silica or through the covalently linkage to polymer supports. This study proposes a unique synthesis route to covalently link a symmetrical NHC to silica support through click chemistry. Four types of click catalysts were evaluated, with percent functionality and stereoselectivity being determined. Preliminary results show high yields with obvious heterogeneity. Reaction mechanisms are also discussed.”

- **Admissions Outreach**

MSUN was named *The College of the Month* at Rocky Boy High School. MSUN was invited five times during a month with the purpose of providing information about financial aid, registration, and about the services the Little River Institute offers; also, cross country and basketball practices took place.

During *College Experience Day* with Box Elder High School, the Admissions Office provided information about financial aid and an example of two college classes, so students could practice how to take notes.

- **The Native American Non-Tribal Institutions (NASNTI) Grant**

In 2015, Montana State University-Northern's Extended University was awarded a five-year, \$1.9 million grant through the Native American Non-Tribal Institutions (NASNTI) Program of the U.S. Department of Education. The overarching goal of the grant is to improve the retention and completion rates of American Indian students in higher education. As part of this grant, the Little River Institute was created in January 2016 to serve as a center of tutoring, mentoring, and support for American Indian students and their families at MSUN as well as a source of culturally responsive professional development for MSUN faculty and staff. In addition, the Little River Institute also serves as the gathering space or “home” on

MSU-N's campus for the Sweetgrass Society, the American Indian student organization on campus while the Little River Institute Program Director also serves as the Advisor to the Sweetgrass Society.

In addition to the daily mentoring and tutoring by the Little River Institute staff and peer mentors, the following are specific activities and events during the FY 2016-2017, which also contributed to the overarching goal of the US DOE NASNTI grant:

- **New Student Orientation Family Feed and Open House**

August 25, 2016: Little River Institute/Sweetgrass Society Family Feed and Open House in collaboration with MSUN New Student Orientation August 25th, 2017. American Indian students and their families from throughout Montana, U.S., and Canada came to visit the Little River Institute space, were introduced to the staff, and participated in traditional American Indian games and activities before heading to a family feed on the Student Union Building (SUB) lawn. The traditional American Indian games were lead by invited guests of the Crow Nation.

- **American Indian Heritage Week**

September 19th – 23rd, 2016: Little River Institute sponsored cultural events in honor of American Indian Heritage Week. Students, staff, faculty and the community were invited to participate. The events included a Tipi Raising and Traditional American Indian blessing on the SUB lawn, beading lessons, painting lessons and art therapy, traditional food preparation lessons and tasting, hand games, and arrow throwing. The activities of American Indian Heritage Week were led by a variety of invited guests from the Cree, Assiniboine, and Crow Nations of Montana. The week also included participation from second graders of Havre Public Schools.

- **Youth Leadership Gathering**

November 15, 2016: The Little River Institute partnered with the Montana Office of Public Instruction Indian Education Department American Indian Youth Development Coordinator, Don Wetzel, Jr. (Blackfeet) to sponsor a regional Youth Leadership Gathering on campus. High school students participated in the event from Rocky Boy High School, Box Elder High School, Havre High School, Chinook High School, Hays/Lodgepole High School and Dodson High School. The students continue to work on community projects together in an effort to build cultural understanding and appreciation while learning valuable leadership skills.

- **Havre High School Culture Club Powwow**

November 22, 2016: The MSUN Sweetgrass Society supported the Havre High School Culture Club and advisors in hosting a Powwow during Native American Heritage Month.

Members of the Sweetgrass Society participated as dancers and singers for the Powwow, which was attended by several students, staff, and faculty of the Havre K-12 Public School District.

- **Northcentral Montana Upward Bound Collaboration**

December 28, 2016: The Little River Institute partnered with the Northcentral Montana Upward Bound Program (US DOE funded program through the Fort Belknap Tribe) for their one-day winter academy. The high school student participants in the Northcentral Montana Upward Bound program attend Rocky Boy High School, Harlem High School, Hays/Lodgepole High School, and Dodson High School. The students and their school advisors as well as Northcentral Montana Upward Bound staff traveled to MSUN to participate in goal setting and mentorship activities lead by the Little River Institute staff and American Indian student peer mentors.

Summer 2016 and 2017: The Little River Institute continues to partner with Northcentral Montana Upward Bound during their residential summer academy on the MSUN campus. During six weeks of June and July of each year, the Northcentral Montana Upward Bound program delivers academic coursework and college readiness activities to participating high school students from Rocky Boy, Harlem, Hays/Lodgepole, and Dodson. The Little River Institute staff and peer mentors participate in this program by offering tutoring, mentoring, and goal setting activities.

- **Indigenous Education Lecture Series**

February 1, 2017: The Little River Institute sponsored an Indigenous Education Lecture with Mike Jetty (Spirit Lake Dakota) and Stephen Morsette (Cree), Indian Education Specialists with Montana's Office of Public Instruction Indian Education Department. As part of the Indigenous education lecture series, this presentation focused on Montana's diverse Indian Tribes and Cultures including a discussion of the seven Essential Understandings for all Montanans, which are embedded in our state's Indian Education for All (IEFA) Act MCA 20-1-501. Several MSUN faculty, staff, and students attended the presentations. A recording of the presentation can be found at www.littleriverinstitute.org.

March 8, 2017: The Little River Institute sponsored an Indigenous Education Lecture with Julie Cajune (Salish). Ms. Cajune presented "Native Knowledge in Higher Education" for faculty, staff, and students. Her presentation included an analysis of MSUN degree programs and how the Essential Understandings of Montana's *Indian Education for All* Act can be incorporated into the varied curriculums. For the community, Ms. Cajune presented "Native Knowledge in the 21st Century" which was a more broad based approach to the incorporation of Native knowledge in everyday life. A recording of Ms. Cajune's presentation can be found at www.littleriverinstitute.org.

- **41st Annual Sweetgrass Society Powwow**

March 31st & April 1st, 2017: The American Indian student organization at MSU-Northern, the Sweetgrass Society, hosted its annual Powwow in the Armory Gymnasium during the spring semester. This event has been held for the past 41 consecutive years and is sponsored by the fundraising and organizational efforts of the Sweetgrass Society officers and members. The Powwow provides an opportunity for the Sweetgrass Society to share their diverse American Indian cultures with the campus and larger Hi-Line communities. Hundreds attend this event from communities throughout Montana, the United States, and Canada.

- **2nd Annual Indigenous Education Conference**

April 18th & 19th, 2017: The Little River Institute hosted the second annual Indigenous Education Conference at MSU-Northern. The theme of the conference was *Social Justice: Implementing Montana's Indian Education for All (IEFA) Act*. The first day of the conference focused on IEFA in K-12 schools with presentations from Marvin Weatherwax, Sr. (Blackfeet Elder), Dr. Margaret Campbell (Assiniboine), Shaylea Tatsey (Blackfeet), M. Whitney Topsky (Chippewa, Cree), and an American Indian Student Panel. The second day of the conference focused on the implementation of IEFA in Higher Education with presentations from Marvin Weatherwax, Sr. (Blackfeet Elder); Panel Discussion with Jonathan Nepoose, Jr. (Chippewa, Cree), Mia LameBull (Aaniiih, Cree) Amy Main (Aaniiih) and Brandi King (Assiniboine, Blackfeet) on their experience representing their tribal nations as water protectors on the Standing Rock Reservation; Annie Kling (Choctaw) followed by an open discussion with conference attendees on the future of IEFA in Higher Education in Montana. The conference was well attended with over 115 participants representing MSUN faculty, staff, and students, Tribal College faculty, Hi-Line community members, students and staff from Rocky Boy schools, Havre Public Schools, Harlem schools, Hays/Lodgepole schools and Dodson schools.

- **Tribal College Student Day**

April 28, 2017: In collaboration with the MSU-Northern Admissions Office, Financial Aid Office, and Registrar's Office, the Little River Institute hosted a day for area Tribal College students and their advisors to visit campus and learn about the process of transferring from their school to MSUN. Interested students were able to become familiar with the Little River Institute and staff as well as begin the process of transferring to MSUN. The activities of Tribal College Student Day continue throughout the year as Tribal College students visit campus. The Little River Institute acts as a point of contact for students from Reservation high schools, Tribal Colleges and communities.

- **Little River Institute Peer Mentor Program (OCHE American Indian Student Scholars)**

The Little River Institute American Indian Peer Mentors are current American Indian students at MSU-Northern. They provide mentorship to other students in the areas of academics, social and campus life, residential life, and anything else that may arise. The peer

mentors are available daily in the Little River Institute for students who frequently stop by with questions and tutoring needs. In addition, the peer mentors work very closely with the MSUN Admissions team. They are frequently involved with campus visits from prospective students (both Native and Non-Native) as well as frequent visits from regional tribal K-12 schools and colleges. In addition, the Little River Institute has partnered with a regional Upward Bound program facilitating the Little River Institute peer mentors to begin working with minority and low-income high school students through a Saturday Academy as well as an in-residence Summer Academy located on the campus of MSU-Northern. The Little River Institute hosts many events on campus from cultural activities of American Indian Heritage Week to the annual Indigenous Education Conference, all of which our peer mentors help with.

- **Faculty developed Open Educational Resources for *Indian Education for All* Implementation**

May 3, 2017: The Little River Institute sponsored MSU-Northern faculty to develop Open Educational Resources (OERs) on the implementation of Montana *Indian Education for All* Act in their courses. The objectives of the OERs were to include

- 1) promoting pedagogical strategies that align with American Indian cultures and
- 2) developing curricula that include American Indian cultural perspectives and/or content related to subject matter as appropriate.

The Director of the Little River Institute, Erica McKeon-Hanson, and the MSUN Extended University curriculum developer, Dr. Lindsey Brandt-Bennett held weekly office hours for faculty to seek assistance in the development of their OER. All completed OERs were presented at the Extended University Alt-Text Festival held May 3, 2017 at MSU-N.

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

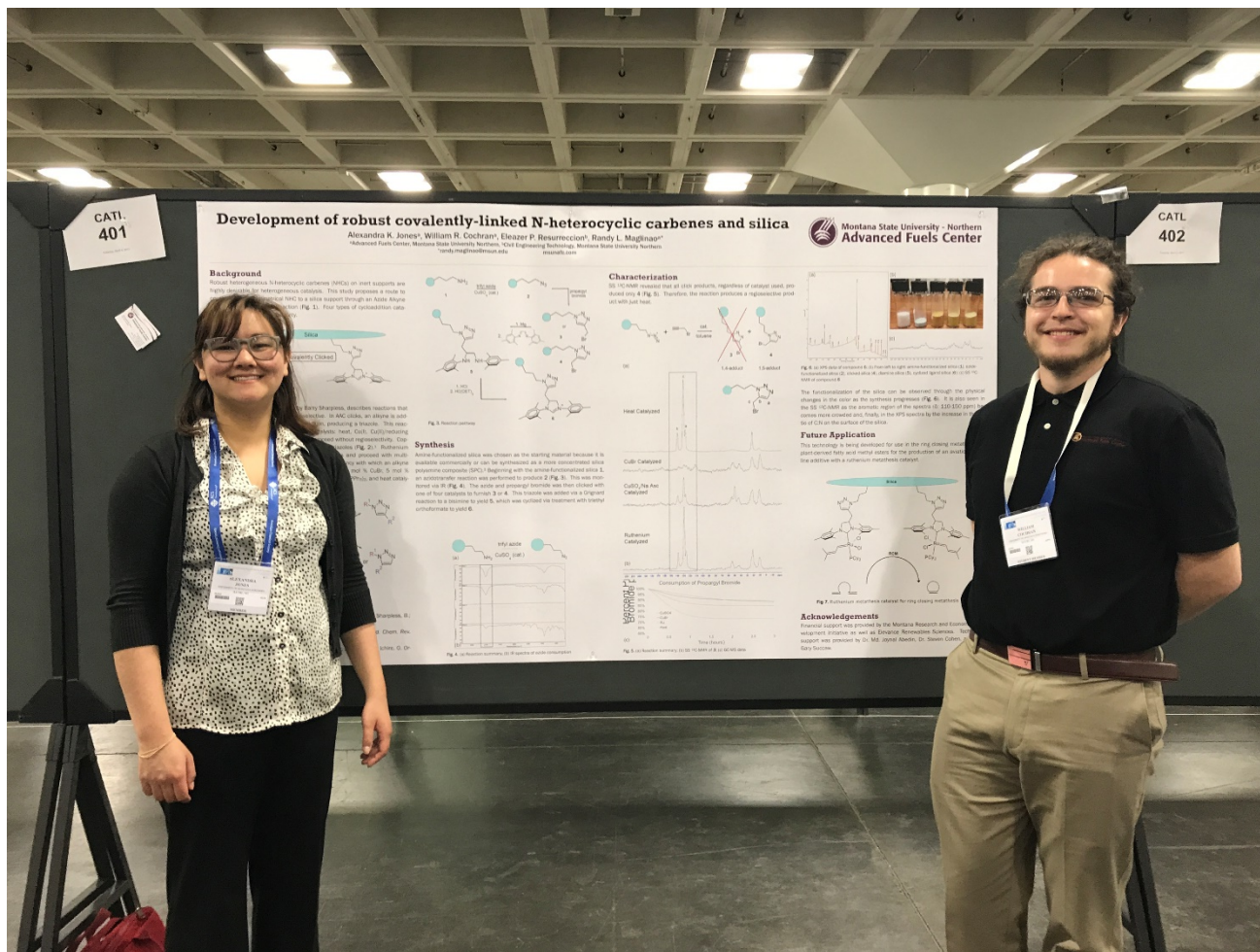


Photo File Name: 253rd American Chemists' Society National Meeting and Expo
Photo Caption: Alexandra K. Jones and William R. Cochran (Gros Ventre/Assiniboine) presenting the poster "Development of Robust Covalently-linked N-heterocyclic Carbenes and Silica."
Location: San Francisco, CA
Date: April 3rd, 2017
Photo Credit: Randy Maglinao



Photo File Name: Alliance for the Minority Participation (AMP) Scholar

Photo Caption: Paula Michell, Civil Engineering major receiving her backpack as she was accepted as an AMP scholar.

Location: MSUN Family Housing, Havre, MT

Dates: May 18th, 2017

Photo Credit: Justin Goggles



Photo File Name: 2017-2018 ODAMP's Artists of the Month, Native American Art

Photo Caption: From center to right: Leonor Stiffarm's (Poem), Leland Steward, Courtney Cota, Justin Goggles, Joe Cochran, and Lisa Lang (for title of the pieces, refer to previous text).

Location: MSUN, ODAMP Webpage

Dates: September 2016-April 2017

Photo Credit: Cristina Estrada-Underwood



Photo File Name: Reception of the exhibition *Indivisible, African-Native American Lives in the Americas*

Photo Caption: Adjunct Native American Studies faculty, Yvonne Tiger, presenting the lecture that opened the exhibition.

Location: Vande Bogart Library, MSUN Campus, Havre, MT

Dates: February 21st, 2017

Photo Credit: Jim Potter



Photo File Name: MSUN Home Coming 2016

Photo Caption: Homecoming Prince Jonathan Nepoose, Jr. and Princess Mia LameBull representing the Sweetgrass Society.

Location: Blue Pony Stadium, Havre, MT

Dates: October 22, 2016

Photo Credit: Jim Potter



Photo File Name: Youth Leadership Gathering 2016

Photo Caption: Don Wetzel, Jr., American Indian Youth Development Coordinator, Montana Office of Public Instruction, speaks to a group of high school students. This event was co-sponsored by Montana OPI Department of Indian Education and the MSUN Little River Institute.

Location: MSUN Campus, Havre, MT

Dates: November 15, 2016

Photo Credit: Erica McKeon-Hanson



Photo File Name: 41st Annual MSUN Sweetgrass Society Powwow

Photo Caption: Young dancers from the Whitford and Watson families of Rocky Boy, MT

Location: MSUN Armory Gymnasium, Havre, MT

Dates: March 31st and April 1st, 2017

Photo Credit: Jason Geer



Photo File Name: 2nd Annual Little River Institute Indigenous Education Conference
Photo Caption: Jasper Doney of Dodson High School and Alex Belgarde of Rocky Boy High School participate in an activity led by presenter Shaylea Tatsey (Havre Public Schools 5th grade teacher)
Location: MSUN Sub Ballroom, Havre, MT
Dates: April 18th & 19th, 2017
Photo Credit: Jason Geer



Photo File Name: 2nd Annual Little River Institute Indigenous Education Conference

Photo Caption: Dr. Margaret Campbell (Assiniboine), Superintendent of the Hays/Lodgepole School District, gives a keynote presentation on the History of Montana's *Indian Education for All Act*

Location: MSUN Sub Ballroom , Havre, MT 59501

Dates: April 18th and 19th

Photo Credit: Jason Geer