

**2018 GOVERNOR'S TRIBAL RELATIONS REPORT – AGENCY NARRATIVE REPORTING FORM  
(FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD JULY 1, 2017 - JUNE 30, 2018)**

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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 20, 2018
2. STATE AGENCY/DIVISION/PROGRAM: Montana State University-Northern
3. NARRATIVE COORDINATOR NAME: Margaret H. Campbell, Ed. D.
4. PHONE/EMAIL: (406) 945-9232
  
5. ACTIVITY NAME
6. PROGRAM STAFF NAME: PHONE/EMAIL: margarett.campbell@msun.edu
  
7. Select Tribe(s) Involved:
  - All
  - Blackfeet
  - Chippewa Cree
  - Confederated Salish & Kootenai
  - Crow
  - Fort Belknap
  - Fort Peck
  - Little Shell
  - Northern Cheyenne
  
8. Please specify when this state-tribal activity started and if it is ongoing or finalized.
  - Started before FY 2018
  - Started during FY 2018
  - Ongoing/Long-Term
  - Completed/finalized during FY 2018

*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.*

9. 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.
  - a. A **Director of American Indian Education/Tribal Liaison/Special Advisor to the Chancellor** was hired November, 2017 after conducting a search. This person is a member of Core Leadership and reports to the Chancellor as-well-as the Little River Institute Director. One of the key roles for this position is providing professional development to faculty and staff in issues related to Indian Education for All, Retention and Completion.

An American Indian Advisory Council (AIAC) was established January 2018 to provide Little River Institute and MSU-N Administration advice on matters of tribal culture and processes of the tribes within the "Little River" region of Blackfeet, Rocky Boy, Fort Belknap and Fort Peck. A Round Dance was held in the Student Union Building to welcome the AIAC members and to show appreciation for the Faculty and Staff.
  - b. An **Open House was held at the Little River Institute** for all American Indian incoming freshman and transfer students on August 25, 2018.

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- c. **American Indian Heritage Week (LRI)** was held September 24 through 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
LRI held an action packed week at MSU-N. It started with tipi raising representing the Blackfeet, Aaniiih and Cree of Montana. American Indian Elders provided prayers and welcome, followed by a beading instruction class by a tribal elder/veteran. A popular Indigenous Comedian did a motivational performance and a Comedy show at two different times. Traditional Games were taught by two local Indigenous women and played by the participants. A parent of an MSUN student taught the art of star quilt making to conference participants. A special showing of “*Bury my Heart at Wounded Knee*” was held in the MSUN theatre. A presentation, “*Indian Education: Supporting American Indian Students at MSU-Northern*” was held the final day followed by a “*Sweetgrass Society Unity Walk/Run* to raise awareness of Missing and Murdered indigenous Women.
  
- d. The **Office of Diversity Awareness and Multicultural Programs (ODAMP)** sponsored lectures by Joseph Grady on the Conversation of Race, November 15, 2017.
  
- e. **7<sup>th</sup> Generation Leadership Conference**, March 14-16, 2018  
MSU-N partnered with the State of Montana, Office of Public Instruction: Indian Education Division and Donald Wetzel Jr. to sponsor a regional Youth Leadership Conference. The students coordinated all of the details of the conference, the name, setting, agenda, break-out sessions, talent show and meetings with the current Sweetgrass Society members. Twelve (12) schools attended from across the State of Montana.
  
- f. **Pow Wow Professional Development** by Dr. Margaret Campbell and student, Mia Lamebull; March 29, 2018  
A Pow Wow demonstration and teaching was presented to MSU-N faculty and staff a week prior to the Sweetgrass Society Powwow to teach about different dance styles, regalia, and protocol.
  
- g. **42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Sweet Grass Society Powwow**  
March 30-31, 2018 the annual spring celebration was held on MSU-N campus in the Armory Gymnasium. This event has been held for the past 42 consecutive years and is sponsored by the fundraising and organization efforts of the Sweetgrass Society officers and members. The Powwow provides an opportunity for the Sweetgrass Society to share their diverse American Indian culture with the campus and the larger Hi-Line communities. Hundreds attend this event from communities throughout Montana, The United States and Canada.
  
- h. **Faculty Professional Development**  
  
Dr. Joseph McGeshick presented “*Addressing Pan-Indianism and Native American Stereotypes in Education and Mainstream Culture*” during a day session and presented “*Recognizing, Teaching and Separating Pan-Indian History and Postmodern Thought*” April 19, 2018  
  
Dr. Pearl Yellowman presented “*Implicit Social Cognition: Understanding Stereotypes and Social Groups: Dismantling Harmful Stereotypes and Rebuilding Healthy Understandings*” and “*Tenants of this Land: Historical Look at Cultural Beliefs and Relationship Building*” on April 23, 2018

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**i. Board of Regents, May 23, 2018**

Erica McKeon-Hanson, PI/Director of LRI and Dr. Margaret Campbell presentation to the BOR regarding retention gains of First-time, Full-time American Indian students at MSU-N as well as the other support services provided to all American Indian students at MSU-N through the U.S. Department of Education's Native American Serving Non-Tribal Institutions (NASNTI) Program. See Chart Below:

**f) Native American Non-Tribal Institutions (NASNTI) Grant aka Little River Institute (LRI)**

In 2015 Montana State University-Northern was awarded a five-year, \$1.9 million dollar grant through the NASNTI Program of the Department of Education. The main goal of the grant is to improve the retention and completion rates of American Indian Students in higher education. As part of the grant, the Little River Institute (LRI) was created in January 2016 to serve as a center 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 LRI also serves as the gathering space or "home" on MSU-N campus for the Sweet Grass Society, the American Indian student organization on campus while the Little River Institute Program Director also serves as the Advisor to the Sweetgrass Society, along with the Director of American Indian Education/Special Advisor to the Chancellor/Tribal Liaison.

**g) Outreach to Tribal Colleges:**

Fall 2017 semester (September – December): Erica McKeon-Hanson, PI/Director of LRI traveled to Stone Child College once per week to teach WRIT 201: College Writing II as an outreach effort with a Tribal College.

Margaret Campbell, Director of American Indian Education, gave the Commencement Address at Fort Peck Community College; May 9, 2018

MSU-N hosted Fort Peck Community College transfer students that were accompanied by FPCC staff. They were given a tour and were able to talk to the advisors of the academic degree programs that they are interested in.

Margaret Campbell, Director of American Indian Education, met with the Montana Tribal College Presidents to present the Little River Institute and discussed the goals of the NASNTI grant with regard to retention and completion of American Indian students.

Dr. Janine Pease, from Little Big Horn College, gave the 2018 Commencement Address at MSU-N. The Ceremony included an Honor Song by a well-known drum group, Assiniboine-Cree.

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

**No policy, rule or law changes.**

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.

**MSU-N Data on American Indian Student Retention:**

## American Indian Student Retention Rates

(First-time, Full-time students)

### Fall to Spring Retention Rates

- 2015 - 57%
- 2017 - 81%

### Fall to Fall Retention Rates

- 2015 - 36%
- 2017 - 52%



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.*

(photos are on the following pages)

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

No.

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Photo File Name: Sweetgrass Society Members  
Photo Caption: Jonathan Nepoose Jr. and Mia LameBull  
Location: MSU-N Campus  
Photo Credit: Jim Potter, MSU-N



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**Photo File Name:** 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Sweetgrass Society Powwow

**Photo Captain:** Leslie Horn, Veteran and Aaniiih Nakoda College Student Senate President, Carrying American Flag, Chancellor Kegal, Sherry Kegal, Provost Moisey, Lisa Moisey leading the Grand Entry.

**Location:** MSU-N Armory Gymnasium

**Date:** March 30, 2018

**Photo Credit:** Erica Mc Keon- Hanson

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**Photo File Name:** Powwow Demonstration by Margaret Campbell, Director of American Indian Education

**Photo Caption:** Aiyanna Goggles, Dancer,

**Location:** MSU-N Student Union Building

**Date:** March 29, 2018

**Photo credit:** Erica McKeon- Hanson

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**Photo File Name:** Shared Leadership

**Photo Caption:** L-R: Amy Horn, Sweetgrass Society President, Mia LameBull, Leslie Horn, Aaniiih Nakoda College Student Senate President, Diona Buck, Jonathan Nepoose Jr. Sweetgrass Society Vice President

**Location:** MSU-N Fireside Room in the Student Union Building

**Date:** March 2018

**Photo Credit:** Erica McKeon-Hanson



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**Photo File Name:** MSU-N Little River Visit by Hays Lodgepole Students and Corey Morgan, Dean of Students

**Photo Caption:**

**Location:** Little River Institute

**Dates:** March 2018

**Photo Credit:** Erica McKeon-Hanson

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**Photo File Name:** 7<sup>th</sup> Generation Youth Leadership Conference: Elder Teaching  
**Photo Caption:** Buster Moore, Elder, Teaching Conference Youth  
**Location:** MSU-N Student Union Building  
**Dates:** March 2018  
**Photo Credits:** Erica McKeon-Hanson



**Photo File Name:** Tipi Raising During American Indian Heritage Week  
**Photo Caption:** Sweetgrass Society and Little River Institute students demonstrating their tribal style



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**Location:** MSU-N Campus



**Photo File Name:** American Indian Heritage Week Activities

**Photo Caption:** Willowa Horn, Artist, Demonstrating the Art of Star Quilts

**Location:** Little River Institute MSU-Northern

**Dates:** September 2017

**Photo Credit:** Erica McKeon Hanson

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**Photo File Name:** Montana State University Northern Commencement 2018

**Photo Caption:** Dr. Janine Pease giving Commencement Address to the Class of 2018

**Location:** Montana State University-Northern's Armory Gymnasium

**Photo Credit:** Erica McKeon-Hanson



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**Photo File Name:** All 2nd grade classes at Havre Public Schools came to visit the MSU-N campus in September during AI Heritage Week to learn about Tipis and play Traditional games with the MSU-N Little River Institute Peer Mentors.

**Photo Caption:** Havre Public Schools Second Graders

**Location:** Montana State University-Northern Campus

**Date:** September 2017

**Photo Credit:** Erica McKeon-Hanson

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**Photo File Name:** Sweetgrass Society and Skylights women's Basketball Team at Sweetgrass Society Unity Walk in honor of MMIW

**Photo Caption:** Sweet Grass Society and the Skylights Women's Basketball Team Stand up for Missing and Murdered Indian Women

**Location:** Montana State University-Northern's Student Union Building

**Date:** September 2017



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**Photo Credit:** Erica McKeon-Hanson



**Photo File Name:** Youth Leadership Conference Planning

**Photo Caption:** Donnie Wetzel Jr., Office of Public Instruction and Youth Planning Conference

**Location:** Montana State University-Northern's Student Union Building

**Date:** November, 2017

**Photo Credit:** Erica McKeon-Hanson

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**Photo:** Davy Belgard, Aaniiih Elder Speaking to Students at MSU-N

**Photo Caption:** Elder Teachings

**Location:** Montana State University Northern's Student Union Building

**Date:** March 15, 2018

**Photo Credit:** Erica McKeon-Hanson



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**Photo File Name:** Montana State University Northern's American Indian Advisory Council and MSU-N Chancellor Kegel, Little River Institute Director: Erica McKeon Hanson and Director of American Indian Education: Margaret Campbell and MSU-N Provost, Neil Moisey

**Photo Caption:** American Indian Advisory Council

**Location:** MSU-N Student Union Building

**Date:** January 2018

**Photo Credit:** Stock Photo