

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

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: University of Montana Western
3. NARRATIVE COORDINATOR NAME: Ilene Cohen
4. PHONE/EMAIL: Ilene.cohen@umwestern.edu 406-683-7311

5. ACTIVITY NAME: Blackfeet Community College, Browning Public schools and UMWestern partnership
6. PROGRAM STAFF NAME: Vikki Howard, Jen Gilliard, Dee Hoyt
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dlynnhoyt@bfcc.edu 406-338-5441, ext 2305

7. Select Tribe(s) Involved:

<input type="checkbox"/> All	<input type="checkbox"/> Fort Belknap
<input checked="" 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	

8. Please specify when this state-tribal activity started and if it is ongoing or finalized.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Started before FY 2018	<input type="checkbox"/> Started during FY 2018
<input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing/Long-Term	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 \$1M federal Office of Indian Education grant supports a partnership between Blackfeet Community College (BCC), the Browning Public Schools and the University of Montana Western.

Over 40 Indigenous teacher candidates seeking a K-8 or P-3 degree or certification are currently enrolled at Montana Western, but they are taking classes in their home communities. The teacher candidates are teachers, paraprofessionals or long-term substitute teachers in and around Browning, MT. The most important outcome of this grant is to design and implement a sustainable program that will address the long-existing shortage of teachers serving Indigenous children on the reservation. A combination of high teacher turnover, difficulty in recruitment and a predominance of novice teachers contribute to the challenges of serving the needs of the local youth and schools.

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Ms. Dee Hoyt is the Director of Education at BCC and the Principle Investigator of the grant. Dr. Jen Gilliard, UMW Early Childhood Program Director, coordinates the P3 program which served 12 candidates in their online coursework. Dr. Vikki Howard, UMW Education professor, coordinates the K-8 program which served 31 candidates through a unique in-service model. Through this grant, Montana Western and BCC have recruited Blackfeet faculty to design and deliver a Blackfeet culturally infused K-8 curriculum for Blackfeet teacher candidates who teach or will teach in the Browning schools. The college curriculum matches pedagogy and curricula used in the Browning schools, so candidates can move seamlessly from Montana Western classrooms to their classrooms.

In December of 2017, Lona Running Wolf, an UMW adjunct faculty member and teacher in Browning, brought two of her students, Patrick Armstrong and Anna Armstrong, to the UMW campus to engage with students in senior seminar. Ms. Running Wolf presented on the differences between the Western (Euro) world view and the Blackfeet world view. She explained how the generations of trauma have significantly disrupted Blackfeet Ways and how it is possible to rebuild ancient values, restore harmony and erase the roots of poverty. Patrick described the ways he is applying both Indigenous and Western pedagogy in his classroom and the successes he is having with his students. Anna spoke about the ways she teaches children to value who they are as people, as well as the use of ceremonies, language and stories to embrace their history and their future. Approximately 60 students, faculty and staff attended this presentation.

10. 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. N/A
11. 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.

By the end of summer 2018, four undergraduate Indigenous students will have completed BS degrees in Elementary Education, one early childhood education Indigenous student will have completed a K-8 endorsement, and one post baccalaureate Indigenous student will be certified in Elementary Education. All of the teacher candidates have been offered teaching positions in the Browning Public Schools for the 2018-19 academic year.

The BCC/UMW grant partnership has played a significant role in mitigating the teacher shortage in Browning:

- All five candidates certified in elementary education were hired to fill vacancies.
- Seven Class 5 teachers in the Browning schools are gaining the required credentials to continue working as certified teachers.
- Sixteen students enrolled in this program will be lead teachers in the Browning schools during the 2018-19 academic year.

12. Are there photographs to support the narrative? (x) Yes () No

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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: Anna and Patrick Armstrong

Photo Caption: Anna and Patrick Armstrong presentation at UMWestern, December 2017

Photo Credit: marketing department

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