



**2020 GOVERNOR'S TRIBAL RELATIONS REPORT – AGENCY NARRATIVE REPORTING FORM  
(FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD JULY 1, 2019 - JUNE 30, 2020)**

---

seeing all American Indian students succeed by providing academic support and services to improve American Indian retention, persistence, and degree completion. Our campus community proudly embraces the Native American culture, heritage, values, and beliefs. Great Falls College MSU is committed to implement culturally responsive high-impact practices that assist traditionally underrepresented student populations in pursuing higher education. Opportunities for leadership, mentoring, and planning community service engagement and workshops for academic success, self-advocacy, cultural identity, scholarship opportunities, personal growth, and responsibility for Native American students through on and off campus opportunities.

On the Great Falls College MSU campus, the Director works with the Student Activities Coordinator in supporting the Native American Student Group while promoting, and planning Native American Heritage Week, Native American Heritage Month, and other cultural events. The Director represents Great Falls College MSU in serving on the Office of the Commissioner Higher Education's American Indian Minority Achievement (AIMA) council to identify ways to strengthen services and to identify best practices for recruitment, orientation, and retention of Native American students. In addition, the Director works to enhance Native American cultural presence throughout the campus in creating an environment that is welcoming, inclusive, and respectful.

The Native American Enrichment Center is a culturally inclusive and welcoming community environment that houses a gathering space and two distraction free study rooms with access to free printing, computers, refrigerator, microwave, family children's library, and access to culturally responsive resources. In addition, Blackfeet Language classes are offered twice a week throughout the school year.

**American Indians Scholars Program:**

The American Indian Scholars Program works to improve persistence rates of Native American students by providing opportunities for personal and professional development in a supportive group setting, representative of collectivistic cultural values. One of the goals of the scholars group is to create peer mentors with the knowledge of school and community resources. Participation in the program entitles students to a stipend recognizing their service to the community. The amount of stipend increases after the first semester of participation. A \$100 stipend is earned for the first semester (training period), and a \$150 stipend each subsequent semester. The stipend is paid at the end of each term based on satisfactory performance of expectations. Satisfactory performance is defined as:

- Attending at least 70% of group activities including academic, leadership, and personal growth skills workshops, events, and meetings
- Serving as a mentor to others by making contact information available and responding to inquires
- Promoting group events

In addition to the financial benefits, scholars receive:

- Recognition by both the GFC administration and the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education
- Development of leadership and professional skills

### **Tribal Flags:**

Great Falls is home to many American Indians across the state. Each of the 12 tribal nations of Montana is diverse in their languages, cultures, histories, and governments. As a campus community GFC MSU recognizes the diverse traditional beliefs and spirituality of each tribal nation, values their identity, and understands the significance of tribal sovereignty by displaying each of the flags on our campus.

The Montana Tribal flags represent each of the tribal nations:

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, Blackfeet Tribe, Little Shell Chippewa Tribe, Chippewa Cree Tribe, Gros Ventre and Assiniboine Tribes, Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes, Northern Cheyenne Tribe, and the Crow Tribe. The tribal flags of Montana's Tribal Nations were hung in the atrium at Great Falls College MSU to recognize and honor our students' tribal affiliations.

### **Great Falls College MSU Native American Eagle Feather Ceremony:**

Seven eligible Fall, Spring, and Summer Native American graduates of Great Falls College received a beaded Eagle feather in 2 separate ceremonies; one on June 18, 2020, and the other on July 13, 2020. Jackie Bread assisted the College's faculty, staff, and students in beading 7 Eagle feathers in the College's colors: blue, yellow, and white in various designs. Each ceremony included a prayer and blessing, blessing of the feathers, transfer ceremony, closing remarks, and honor circle, prayer and song. Those officiating the ceremony were tribal elders: Don Fish and Dugan Coburn.

### **American Indian Scholars Program:**

Great Falls College received a \$1563 mini grant to further implement the American Indian Scholars Program on our campus. The Director, Katherine Meier, submitted the winning proposal.

### **International Traditional Games Society:**

Kati Antonich and Deana Leader organized a women's empowerment society and mentorship for Native American women and girls. The society collaborated with Great Falls College in reaching out to local Native American women and girls.

9. 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.

### **Native American Eagle Feather Policy:**

A policy was established in 2019 for the distribution of Eagle feathers for eligible graduates. The policy states: *Great Falls College MSU may gift graduating students of eligible Indian (Native American) heritage with one (1) eagle feather. A tribal elder will perform the transfer ceremony. Proof of tribal enrollment or descendancy must be provided. Graduating eligible students must attend the scheduled Eagle Feather Ceremony to receive transfer of their feather. Native*

**2020 GOVERNOR’S TRIBAL RELATIONS REPORT – AGENCY NARRATIVE REPORTING FORM  
(FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD JULY 1, 2019 - JUNE 30, 2020)**

---

*Americans may give feathers or other eagle items as gifts to other Native Americans and may hand them down within their families. They may not, however, give them to non-Native Americans.*

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.

**Fall 2019 Native American Enrichment Center Report**

**National, State, and Great Falls College Quick Stats:**

- United States American Indian and Alaska Native population is approximately 1.7%.<sup>1</sup>
- Montana’s American Indian and Alaska Native population is approximately 8.2%.<sup>1</sup>
- Great Falls College MSU American Indian and Alaska Native population in Fall 2019 was approximately 10.0% of the entire student body.<sup>2</sup>
- Approximately 14.5% of students who identified themselves as American Indian or Alaska Native visited the Native American Enrichment Center (NAEC).<sup>2,3</sup>

**Native American Enrichment Center Visits**

- In Fall 2019, the NAEC had 411 visits from 60 students.<sup>3</sup>
  - Of the 60 students, 55 were enrolled in courses during Fall 2019 either at census or end-of-term. Therefore, the retention and GPA data were based on those 55 students. These 55 students visited the NAEC between 1 and 58 times during the term.

**Grade Point Average Stats for Fall 2019**

- Students using the NAEC: 3.01<sup>5</sup>
- American Indian or Alaska Native students not using the NAEC average: 2.67\*<sup>3,4</sup>
- Non-NAEC students (including American Indian or Alaska Native): 2.89\*<sup>3</sup>

*\*Note that these values exclude data from High School Dual Enrollment Students (“StuType H”)*

**Sources:**

<sup>1</sup>U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, using “Race alone or in combination with one or more other races,” [www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs](http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs)

<sup>2</sup>MUS data warehouse Enrollment table, using “MT Race” variable

<sup>3</sup>Native American Enrichment Center report

<sup>4</sup>Graduation report from Registrar’s Office

<sup>5</sup>MUS warehouse Enrollment table

### Spring 2020 Native American Enrichment Center Report

#### National, State, and Great Falls College Quick Stats:

- United States American Indian and Alaska Native population is approximately 0.9%.<sup>1</sup>
- Montana’s American Indian and Alaska Native population is approximately 6.4%.<sup>1</sup>
- Great Falls College MSU American Indian and Alaska Native population in Spring 2020 was approximately 9.5% of the entire student body.<sup>2</sup>
- Approximately 10.2% of students who identified themselves as American Indian or Alaska Native visited the Native American Enrichment Center (NAEC).<sup>2,3</sup>

#### Native American Enrichment Center Visits

- In Spring 2020 the NAEC had 187 visits from 23 students.<sup>3</sup>
  - Of the 23 students, 20 were enrolled in courses during Spring 2020 either at Census or end-of-term. Therefore, the retention and GPA data were based on those 20 students.

#### Grade Point Average Stats for Spring 2020<sup>5</sup>

- Students using the NAEC: 2.54
- American Indian or Alaska Native students not using the NAEC average: 2.62\*<sup>3,4</sup>
- Non-NAEC students (including American Indian or Alaska Native): 2.96\*<sup>3</sup>

*\*Note that these values exclude data from High School Dual Enrollment Students (“StuType H”)*

#### Retention Rates from Spring 2020 to Fall 2020<sup>3,4,5,6</sup>

- Retention rate for students who used the NAEC: X%
- Retention rate for non-NAEC students (excluding high school students): X%

*\*Retention was defined as the proportion of students who were either enrolled at GFC MSU in Fall 2020 as of census date, graduated in Fall 2020, or transferred to another college as of Fall 2020 census date (09-08-2020).*

#### Sources:

<sup>1</sup>U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates,

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/>

<sup>2</sup>MUS data warehouse enrollment table, using “MT Race” variable

<sup>3</sup>Native American Enrichment Center report

<sup>4</sup>Graduation report from Registrar’s Office

<sup>5</sup>MUS warehouse enrollment table

<sup>6</sup>National Student Clearinghouse

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

**2020 GOVERNOR'S TRIBAL RELATIONS REPORT – AGENCY NARRATIVE REPORTING FORM  
(FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD JULY 1, 2019 - JUNE 30, 2020)**

---

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

2020 Governor's Tribal Relations Report Photos

Photo File Name: 1 Brian Tucker and Don Fish

Photo Caption: 2020 Native American Eagle Feather Ceremony, Brian Tucker and Don Fish, Great Falls College MSU, June 18, 2020

Photo Credit: Katherine Meier

Photo File Name: 2 Brian Tucker

Photo Caption: 2020 Native American Eagle Feather Ceremony, Brian Tucker, Great Falls College MSU, June 18, 2020

Photo Credit: Katherine Meier

Photo File Name: 3 Brian Tucker and Dugan Coburn

Photo Caption: 2020 Native American Eagle Feather Ceremony, Brian Tucker and Dugan Coburn, Great Falls College MSU, June 18, 2020

Photo Credit: Katherine Meier

Photo File Name: 4 Dugan Coburn and Don Fish

Photo Caption: 2020 Native American Eagle Feather Ceremony, Dugan Coburn and Don Fish, Great Falls College MSU, June 18, 2020

Photo Credit: Katherine Meier

Photo File Name: 5 Lisa Scott and Don Fish

Photo Caption: 2020 Native American Eagle Feather Ceremony, Lisa Scott and Don Fish, Great Falls College MSU, June 18, 2020

Photo Credit: Katherine Meier

Photo File Name: 6 Lisa Scott

Photo Caption: 2020 Native American Eagle Feather Ceremony, Lisa Scott, Great Falls College MSU, June 18, 2020

Photo Credit: Katherine Meier

Photo File Name: 7 Michele Uhrich

Photo Caption: 2020 Native American Eagle Feather Ceremony, Michele Uhrich, Great Falls College MSU, June 18, 2020

Photo Credit: Katherine Meier

Photo File Name: 8 Michele Uhrich and Don Fish

Photo Caption: 2020 Native American Eagle Feather Ceremony, Michele Uhrich and Don Fish, Great Falls College MSU, June 18, 2020

Photo Credit: Katherine Meier

**2020 GOVERNOR'S TRIBAL RELATIONS REPORT – AGENCY NARRATIVE REPORTING FORM  
(FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD JULY 1, 2019 - JUNE 30, 2020)**

---

Photo File Name: 9 Theresa Ground

Photo Caption: 2020 Native American Eagle Feather Ceremony, Theresa Ground, Great Falls College MSU, June 18, 2020

Photo Credit: Katherine Meier

Photo File Name: 10 Theresa Ground and Don Fish

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

Photo Credit:

Photo File Name: 11 Theresa Ground and Dugan Coburn

Photo Caption: 2020 Native American Eagle Feather Ceremony, Theresa Ground and Dugan Coburn, Great Falls College MSU, June 18, 2020

Photo Credit: Katherine Meier

Photo File Name: 12 Michele Uhrich, Theresa Ground, Brian Tucker, and Lisa Scott

Photo Caption: 2020 Native American Eagle Feather Ceremony, Michele Uhrich, Theresa Ground, Brian Tucker, and Lisa Scott, Great Falls College MSU, June 18, 2020

Photo Credit: Katherine Meier

Photo File Name: 13 Don Fish Drumming

Photo Caption: 2020 Native American Eagle Feather Ceremony, Don Fish Drumming, Great Falls College MSU, June 13, 2020

Photo Credit: Katherine Meier

Photo File Name: 14 Young Girl and Don Fish

Photo Caption: 2020 Native American Eagle Feather Ceremony, Young Girl and Don Fish, Great Falls College MSU, June 13, 2020

Photo Credit: Katherine Meier

Photo File Name: 15 Theresa Ground and Dugan Coburn, Native American Naming Ceremony

Photo Caption: 2020 Native American Naming Ceremony, Great Falls College MSU, November 14, 2019

Photo Credit: Joshua Archey

Photo File Name: 16 Terra Goss and Dugan Coburn

Photo Caption: 2020 Native American Naming Ceremony Ceremony, Great Falls College MSU, November 14, 2019

Photo Credit: Joshua Archey



Photo File Name: 1 Brian Tucker and Don Fish



2020 GOVERNOR'S TRIBAL RELATIONS REPORT – AGENCY NARRATIVE REPORTING FORM  
(FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD JULY 1, 2019 - JUNE 30, 2020)

---



Photo File Name: 2 Brian Tucker



Photo File Name: 3 Brian Tucker and Dugan Coburn

2020 GOVERNOR'S TRIBAL RELATIONS REPORT – AGENCY NARRATIVE REPORTING FORM  
(FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD JULY 1, 2019 - JUNE 30, 2020)

---



Photo File Name: 4 Dugan Coburn and Don Fish

2020 GOVERNOR'S TRIBAL RELATIONS REPORT – AGENCY NARRATIVE REPORTING FORM  
(FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD JULY 1, 2019 - JUNE 30, 2020)

---



Photo File Name: 5 Lisa Scott and Don Fish



Photo File Name: 6 Lisa Scott

2020 GOVERNOR'S TRIBAL RELATIONS REPORT – AGENCY NARRATIVE REPORTING FORM  
(FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD JULY 1, 2019 - JUNE 30, 2020)

---



Photo File Name: 7 Michele Uhrich



Photo File Name: 8 Michele Uhrich and Don Fish

2020 GOVERNOR'S TRIBAL RELATIONS REPORT – AGENCY NARRATIVE REPORTING FORM  
(FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD JULY 1, 2019 - JUNE 30, 2020)

---



Photo File Name: 9 Theresa Ground



Photo File Name: 10 Theresa Ground and Don Fish

**2020 GOVERNOR'S TRIBAL RELATIONS REPORT – AGENCY NARRATIVE REPORTING FORM  
(FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD JULY 1, 2019 - JUNE 30, 2020)**

---



Photo File Name: 11 Theresa Ground and Dugan Coburn





Photo File Name: 12 Michele Uhrich, Theresa Ground, Brian Tucker, and Lisa Scott



© KMeier

Photo File Name: 13 Don Fish Drumming



© KMeier

Photo File Name: 14 Young Girl and Don Fish

2020 GOVERNOR'S TRIBAL RELATIONS REPORT – AGENCY NARRATIVE REPORTING FORM  
(FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD JULY 1, 2019 - JUNE 30, 2020)

---



Photo File Name: 15 Theresa Ground and Dugan Coburn, Native American Naming Ceremony



Photo File Name: 16 Terra Goss and Dugan Coburn, Native American Naming Ceremony

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