

# 2020 GOVERNOR'S TRIBAL RELATIONS REPORT

## AGENCY NARRATIVE REPORTING FORM

*for the Reporting Period July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020*





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# Introduction

## Leadership and Involvement

Joseph R. McGeshick, an Assiniboine, Sioux, and Chippewa from the Fort Peck Indian Reservation fulfills multiple leadership roles at Montana State University Billings. He serves as the Interim Director of the Native American Achievement Center (NAAC). McGeshick is also the Tribal Liaison Officer for the university and a Native American Studies instructor.

The Tribal Liaison works with as many campus departments as possible. He assists them in contacts with tribal colleges, reservation schools, and communities. He worked on projects for the College of Education and tribal colleges in the areas of teacher certification and recertification grants. He obtained letters of support from reservation schools and tribal colleges for the Science Department and its “Atomic Circus.” McGeshick worked with the MSU Billings Foundation to raise funds for projects including over \$75,000 for the Powwow and \$12,000 for the sweat lodge. In addition, he set up many other partnerships with community groups including Native American Development Corporation (NADC), Billings Urban Indian Health and Wellness Center (BUIHWC), and the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council.

As a member of the Chancellor’s Cabinet, he attends weekly meetings to give reports on students, faculty, staff, tribal relations, tribal college partnerships, university and community outreach, and the operations of the NAAC. McGeshick is a member of Provost Council, a consortium of academic and support services leaders from across campus.

Note: MSU Billings conducted a search for a new Director at the end of the fall semester and continued into the first two months of 2020. However, the COVID-19 pandemic interrupted that search. Consequently, the Montana University System (MUS) has allowed the search to continue and a final decision will be made by August, 2020.

The NAAC employs one full-time Project Coordinator, Walter Runsabove, a Cheyenne and Assiniboine from the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation. Runsabove is a member of the Staff Senate which is a platform for faculty, staff, and students to help build morale and bridge relationships within the Yellowjacket family. Runsabove will be starting his second year on Staff Senate. Senators can be a voice for students, faculty, and staff for many reasons as they present healthy solutions while trying to maintain positive relationships as well as bringing events and celebrations to the Yellowjacket community.

Dr. Florence Garcia, an Assiniboine/Sioux from the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, served as the assistant dean of City College, the part-time Coordinator of Native American Student Services at City College to provide support programs for Native students, and as a representative for MSUB on American Indian Minority Achievement (AIMA) Council of the Montana University System. Dr. Garcia attended regular meetings of AIMA to report on the progress of the university and City College faculty and staff completion of Indian Education for All (IEFA) training. She recently retired, effective July 1, 2020.



## About Native American Achievement Center

Montana State University Billings has established two outreach centers to reach and engage Native American students. The first is the Native American Achievement Center (NAAC) on the university campus, and the second is an extension of the NAAC, on the City College campus.

It is the mission of the Native American Achievement Center to help recruit and retain American Indian students at Montana State University Billings. The office serves as an advocate for students pursuing post-secondary educational opportunities at MSU Billings, extension services, and City College by providing academic and student support to students while encouraging their individual, social, cultural and emotional growth.

The NAAC is located at 2630 Normal Ave. on the west side of the MSU Billings campus. The structure is a two-level house with a full basement. It has a number of office and work areas for the Director, Program Coordinator, work-study students, students, families, visitors, and community members. There are four computer stations, two of which are new, for student use and a large meeting room for the All Nations Club (ANC), a Native American student club.

Upstairs, there is a drum room where the NAAC/All Nations Drum and the tribal flags from each Montana Indian reservation are displayed. Mr. Sidney Fitzpatrick, Crow tribal member and Big Horn County Commissioner, donated a [new \\$2,500 drum](#) to the NAAC/ANC and Powwow. The NAAC also hosted two high school drum groups from Billings West and Billings Senior High. They met at the NAAC on Mondays and Tuesdays during the fall and spring semesters. There are plans for hosting them in the upcoming school year.



*Josiah Hugs (Crow), Chancellor Edelman, and Commissioner Sidney Fitzpatrick with the new drum.*

The basement consists of a laundry room where students who need laundry facilities can do laundry. The family room is suitable for parents and young children for daytime use. It includes furniture such as cribs and rocking chairs for mothers of babies and young children. The backyard grounds consists of a playground, garden, and sweat lodge area.

The NAAC is home to the first and only [on-campus sweat lodge](#) in the state of Montana. Working with the MSU Billings Foundation, the NAAC raised over \$12,000 in cash and in-kind donations last fall and construction began on the lodge. The Plains Sweat Lodge is supervised by Sioux, Assiniboine, Crow, and Cheyenne elders who travel to campus from their reservation communities. Sweat lodge ceremonies occurred in the fall and winter on Sunday afternoons, averaging two per month until the COVID-19 pandemic interrupted their continuance. Ceremonies will resume once it is safe to do so, in compliance with the health and safety standards outlined in the MSUB [Back to Business Plan](#).

Part of the sweat lodge installation included two construction projects. The first was the fireplace/fire pit structure. Since the lodge is located on campus and within the city limits of Billings, a place to heat the sweat rocks that was up to the local fire codes was needed. A fireplace/fire pit was constructed out of cement slab, concrete blocks, and inlaid with firebrick. The second construction project was an arbor that protects the sweat lodge from the rain and snow. The Construction Management class at City College built the [arbor](#).

In 2018, City College opened a new Native American work and study room/center for students. The room has computers and lounge chairs. It will be given a traditional Crow name in the future.

In conclusion, the NAAC meets the practical needs of Native American students to ensure they have the support and tools they need to be successful at college.

## Recruitment & Retention

NAAC staff were actively involved in the recruitment and retention of Native American students (NAS) through various efforts highlighted below.

NAAC leadership wrote letters that are included in the New Student Services (NSS) communication flow to prospective students and applicants. The Project Coordinator participated in NSS Campus Preview Days and in a video about the NAAC. Additionally, NAAC staff were included in new student orientation.

The Interim Director and Program Coordinator conducted three separate phone outreach campaigns. The first was in December and January to contact NAS who were not yet registered for spring 2020. The second campaign, in April 2020, involved making calls to NAS to see how the transition to online learning was going for them and to inform them of the MSUB CARES Act funds application. The third was a well check initiative in which all registered and non-registered NAS were called to make sure they were aware of the August 19 start date, CARES Act funds, and other important information.

Dr. Garcia regularly communicated with the City College NAS. She informed students of a variety of student support resources, opportunities for campus and community involvement, and reminders about scholarship application deadlines. With an open door policy, Dr. Garcia made herself available to students, as well as faculty and staff.

Approximately one-third of the 328 Native American students enrolled at MSUB in the fall of 2019 were enrolled at City College.

The five-year average retention rate of first-time NAS was 36.9 percent. 2019 saw a retention rate for Native American students at 41.8 percent, which is an almost five percent increase. 2019 also saw an enrollment increase of 18.6 percent for NAS over fall 2018.



## AIMA Response

The American Indian and Minority Achievement Council (AIMA) generated five major recommendations and a campus plan proposal for MSU Billings and City College in January 2018.

The first recommendation is creating a **senior level point of contact**. This has been fulfilled by having the NAAC Interim Director provide regular updates to the Chancellor's Cabinet, as a member of Cabinet. In July 2019, Chancellor Edelman appointed McGeshick to his Cabinet. This is the first time a Native American has served in that role.

AIMA's second recommendation is finding more and effective **department points of contact**. Interim Director McGeshick participates in a number of committees and campus meetings. McGeshick provides reports to the Provost Council and attends their regular meetings. These meetings provide an opportunity to share the projects, events, and any concerns that the NAAC, and Native American students (NAS) may have. It provides opportunities to collaborate with other outreach programs and departments to help in the areas of student recruitment and retention.

University Executive Council, comprised of executive leadership from across campus, meets monthly. Both Interim Director McGeshick and Dr. Florence Garcia served on the Council and brought regular updates and helped to guide university decisions. The Interim Director met every other week with Student Access and Success (SAS) Directors. SAS and Friends Monthly Meeting – Interim Director McGeshick and Dr. Garcia participated in this monthly meeting of student support leadership from across campus.



The third recommendation focuses on **data collection and dissemination**. McGeshick also works with the Department of Institutional Research (IR) to outline, interpret, and report on the data on enrollment, retention, and graduation of NAS.

AIMA's fourth recommendation is the **implementation of professional development** for MSU Billings and City College. A NAS training/presentation was developed by NAAC staff, Dr. Garcia, and university and City College faculty. This is a higher education version of IEFA and will supplement the version being developed by OCHE. The training/presentation was given in the fall semester to City College faculty with over 80 percent attendance. This hour and half long session

focused on the intellectual history and historiography of NAS, as well as incorporating the underpinning of Montana's and the region's varying cultures and tribes. The university and City College faculty also reviewed the AIMA's IEFA online material developed for higher education. This will also be ongoing and part of the faculty orientation for the upcoming year. Like faculty, the IEFA material will be used for the staff and administrator onboarding process as well.

The fifth and final recommendation is the **dissemination of professional development**. Faculty orientation will disseminate material developed by NAAC Director, staff, Tribal Liaison Officer, NAS faculty, City College NAS Coordinator, and tribal resource personnel. Campus-wide faculty contact will be ongoing during 2020-2021 with the Tribal Liaison meeting personally with faculty and staff for individual professional development, education, and awareness.

Note: Due to the COVID-19 crisis, part of the MSU Billings professional development on the university campus was interrupted. The continuation of the professional development is planned for fall semester 2020 and will continue into spring 2021.

# Powwow

**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: 7/21/20
2. STATE AGENCY/DIVISION/PROGRAM: Montana State University Billings, City College at MSU Billings, Native American Achievement Center
3. NARRATIVE COORDINATOR NAME: Joe McGeshick      PHONE/EMAIL: 406-657-2144/ joseph.mcgeshick@msubillings.edu
4. ACTIVITY NAME *(spell out here, but use acronym or key words for the electronic file name)*: Montana State University Billings Powwow
5. PROGRAM STAFF NAME: Joe McGeshick      PHONE/EMAIL: 406-657-2144/ joseph.mcgeshick@msubillings.edu
6. Select Tribe(s) Involved:
  - (X) All
  - (X) Blackfeet
  - (X) Chippewa Cree
  - (X) Confederated Salish & Kootenai
  - (X) Crow
  - (X) Fort Belknap
  - (X) Fort Peck
  - (X) Little Shell
  - (X) Northern Cheyenne
7. Please specify when this state-tribal activity started and if it is ongoing or finalized.
  - ( ) Started before FY 2020
  - ( ) Started during FY 2020
  - (X) Ongoing/Long-Term
  - ( ) Completed/finalized during FY 2020

*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.

The MSU Billings Powwow scheduled for April 3-4, 2020 was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Subsequently, Powwow Week events were also cancelled. The Powwow Steering Committee had representation from Center for Engagement, University Communications & Marketing, the Vice Chancellor of Student Access and Success division, Foundation, University Police Department, faculty members, athletics department, Native American Development Corporation (NADC), Billings Urban Indian





Health and Wellness Center (BUIHWC), Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council, and Billings School District 2. In 2019, there were 300 dancers and 11 drum groups who participated. Basketball tournament held in conjunction with the 2019 Powwow in the lower gym.

Historically, this annual event brings 5,000 people to campus from across the U.S. and Canada. The week of the Powwow 255 volunteer hours are contributed to host and run the event. This does not include the many planning hours during the fall and spring semesters that ANIC members and NAAC staff contribute. Credit was given for coursework for student volunteers from MSUB, Skyview High School, St. Labre High School, and Chief Dull Knife College. Partnerships with 32 organizations provide production support, sponsorship, and monetary donations. This annual event has a budget of over \$33,000.

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.

The MSU Billings Powwow abides by the Federal Indian Arts and Crafts Act of 1990.

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 prize money participants win is taken back to their reservation communities. Over 5,000 Native Americans attended the Powwow in 2019. There are thousands of tribal individuals living in the Billings urban area, as Billings is the largest Native American community in the state, therefore the Billings community benefits financially as well. Hosting the Powwow on the MSUB campus plants seeds for education of Native American youth which has great benefit to tribal communities and the state of Montana.

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: 2019\_powwow.jpg

Photo Caption (include the name of the event/persons, location, and date): A young dancer performs at the 2019 MSU Billings Powwow, April 6, 2019

Photo Credit: Native American Achievement Center

Photo File Name: 2020\_powwow\_poster.jpg

Photo Caption (include the name of the event/persons, location, and date): The poster for the 2020 MSU Billings Powwow, canceled due to COVID-19

Photo Credit: MSUB University Communications & Marketing

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

The Governor's Tribal Relations Report could be improved by having a specific area of questions that are directly linked to institutions of higher learning.



# Sweat Lodge

**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.**

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3. NARRATIVE COORDINATOR NAME: Joe McGeshick      PHONE/EMAIL: 406-657-2144/ joseph.mcgeshick@msubillings.edu
4. ACTIVITY NAME (*spell out here, but use acronym or key words for the electronic file name*): Montana State University Billings Plains Sweat Lodge
5. PROGRAM STAFF NAME: Joe McGeshick      PHONE/EMAIL: 406-657-2144/ joseph.mcgeshick@msubillings.edu

6. Select Tribe(s) Involved:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All                            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fort Belknap      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Blackfeet                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fort Peck         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chippewa Cree                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Little Shell      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Confederated Salish & Kootenai | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Northern Cheyenne |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Crow                           |   |

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

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Started before FY 2020 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Started during FY 2020  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing/Long-Term      | <input type="checkbox"/> Completed/finalized during FY 2020 |

*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.

The overall purpose of the Plains Sweat Lodge is to ground students, faculty, staff, guests, tribal visitors, in Plains native culture. It is also a tool for recruitment and retention of Native American students. The sweat lodge is important across many tribal culture areas.

The sweat lodge has been utilized by students, faculty, staff, and community members. Sweat Lodge Ceremonies were held on an almost weekly basis from November, through February. Participants included all Montana tribes, with numerous attendees from Crow, Cheyenne, Sioux, Assiniboine, and Chippewa nations. As Billings is home to a diverse urban Native American population, there were also people from other tribes outside of Montana that attended including Iroquois, Navajo, and Seminole. The Mayor of Billings, Honorable Bill Cole, also participated in a sweat. Sweat Lodge Ceremonies for groups were also held, including ROTC, Facilities Services, University Police Department, and many others. To date, 16 sweats have been held with an average of 10 people per sweat.

Interim Director McGeshick with the MSU Billings Foundation raised over \$12,000 in cash and in-kind donations with \$7,000 coming from the Billings 100 (a group of women leaders), \$2,000 from the Billings Community Foundation, and \$5,000 from private donors and in-kind contributions.

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.

The MSU Billings Plains Sweat Lodge abides by the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978.

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.

To date, 160 people have participated in a sweat at the Plains Sweat Lodge at the Native American Achievement Center at MSUB. The sweat lodge serves Native American individuals and community needs in a holistic way.

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: (clockwise from top left) Sweat Lodge Construction.jpg, Framed.jpg, Mayor Cole sweat lodge.jpg, Runs Above daughters at sweat lodge.jpg

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

Photo Credit: Native American Achievement Center

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

The Governor’s Tribal Relations Report could be improved by having a specific area of questions that are directly linked to institutions of higher learning.



Sweat lodge frame construction by Theodore Ware (Crow) and Mike Turley (Sioux).

City College construction students work on the protective arbor for the sweat lodge.



Ivy and Abbilee Runsabove (Northern Cheyenne) stand beside the finished sweat lodge with protective arbor.

City of Billings Mayor Cole coming out of a sweat.



# Campus, Community, Statewide Outreach

**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.

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3. NARRATIVE COORDINATOR NAME: Joe McGeshick      PHONE/EMAIL: 406-657-2144/  
joseph.mcgeshick@msubillings.edu
4. ACTIVITY NAME (*spell out here, but use acronym or key words for the electronic file name*):  
Campus, Community, Statewide Outreach of the Native American Achievement Center
5. PROGRAM STAFF NAME: Joe McGeshick      PHONE/EMAIL: 406-657-2144/  
joseph.mcgeshick@msubillings.edu
6. Select Tribe(s) Involved:  

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fort Belknap
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Blackfeet	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fort Peck
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chippewa Cree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Little Shell
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Confederated Salish & Kootenai	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Northern Cheyenne
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Crow	
7. Please specify when this state-tribal activity started and if it is ongoing or finalized.  

<input type="checkbox"/> Started before FY 2020	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Started during FY 2020
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ongoing/Long-Term	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed/finalized during FY 2020

*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.

The purpose of MSU Billings' Native American Achievement Center (NAAC), as well as the Native American Studies Program, is to recruit and retain Native American students and serve as an advocate and outreach platform to Montana's Indian Reservation communities and their populations. Included in this mission are the thousands of tribal individuals living in the Billings urban area. Over the past year the NAAC has sponsored over 20 activities and events on campus, within the city of Billings, and on several Montana Indian reservations.

Starting in July of 2019 and continuing through the academic year, the center has hosted activities such as holiday parties (e.g., Thanksgiving, Halloween, etc.) for students and their families. The center also partnered with local Native American agencies such as the Native American Development Corporation and the Billings Urban Indian Health and Wellness Center on several events throughout the academic year. A complete list of events can be found later in this report under the headings of Campus Events, Local Community Events, Statewide Events, and Student Events.

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.

The Native American Achievement Center is governed and guided by the Native IRB, IEFA (for faculty and staff professional development), and the Chancellor's policy for Native American outreach.

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.

NAAC staff and MSUB administrators enacted numerous recruiting trips to Montana reservations and Powwows across the state. In 2020, 40 Native American students graduated from MSUB, seven of which graduated from City College.

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: 2019 Basketball Tournament Flier.jpg

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

Photo Credit: Courtesy NAAC.

Photo File Name: Run on the Rims.jpg

Photo Caption (include the name of the event/persons, location, and date): Run on the Rims poster.

Photo Credit: Courtesy NAAC.

Photo File Name: 2019 Basketball Tournament Flier.jpg

Photo Caption (include the name of the event/persons, location, and date): School Outreach: Tabling at School District Two Powwow at Skyview High School with Clint Valandra and Trevor Belnap.

Photo Credit: Courtesy NAAC.

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

The Governor's Tribal Relations Report could be improved by having a specific area of questions that are directly linked to institutions of higher learning.



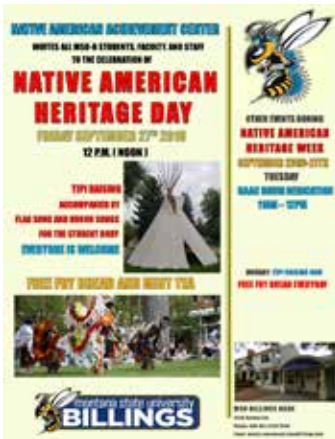
# Campus Events

The following events were held on the MSUB and City College campuses during the 2019-2020 academic year.

**Fry Bread Fridays:** The NAAC started Fry Bread Fridays for students, faculty, staff, administration, facilities, community members, visitors, etc. Several Fridays each month, the NAAC provides free fry bread to interested persons. Note: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this event will be discontinued until further notice.

**Open House:** The first week of September, the NAAC hosted an Open House where employees assisted students with questions concerning: student services, financial aid, cultural activities and services, MSU Billings Powwow, community activities, and student health. Free fry bread and beverages were available. The NAAC Open House was a part of the MSUB Welcome Week activities. During the Open House, an invitation was extended for students to join the MSUB All Nations Indian Club (ANIC).

**Employee Appreciation:** During the last week of September, the NAAC hosted a facilities appreciation feed for MSU Billings Facilities Services employees. The menu included buffalo and wild turnip stew and fry bread.



**Native American Heritage Week:** To commemorate NAHW, from September 23-27, 2019 the NAAC hosted a number of activities including Tipi raising, flag song and honor songs for the student body, storytelling, drum group, and serving food and refreshments such as fry bread, mint tea, Bannock bread, etc.

**Sweat Lodge Dedication:** In November 2019, the NAAC hosted a Dedication and Blessing Ceremony for the first and only on-campus sweat lodge in Montana. The ceremony included a welcome by Chancellor Edelman, explanation of the significance of a sweat lodge by Sidney Fitzpatrick, honor song by Walter Runsabove, followed by refreshments and tours of the NAAC.

**Veterans Day Celebration:** The 10th annual Veteran's Medicine Wheel event was held November 8. The opening ceremony included remarks from Chancellor Edelman, Senator Steve Daines, and Veteran's Honor song by Walter Runsabove.



**Thanksgiving Celebration:** A donor and friend of the NAAC donated 10 Thanksgiving turkeys that were given out to students and community members. The Center also hosted a Thanksgiving Dinner for students, faculty, and staff.

**Powwow:** The MSU Billings Powwow scheduled for April 3-4, 2020 was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. See Powwow form for more details.

# Local Community Events

The following events were held during the 2019-2020 academic year.

**Mending Broken Hearts Event:** On November 12-14, the NAAC and ANIC partnered with the Billings Urban Indian Health & Wellness Center (BUIHWC) and hosted a Mending Broken Hearts event in downtown Billings at the Billings First Congregational Church on 27th Ave. North. This three-day event focused on understanding intergenerational trauma, healing, ancestors, grief therapy and forgiveness. Meals were provided each day.

**Native Arts and Holiday Bazaar:** On December 6, the NAAC sponsored a Native Arts and Holiday Bazaar where local vendors and artists sold their products at the center. This event was open to campus and community.



**MMIW Film Screening:** On February 13, the All Nations Indian Club partnered with the NADC and hosted a film screening in Petro Theatre: “California’s Forgotten Children.” This films documented MMIW and human trafficking in California. This event was open to the campus and community.

**Lewis and Clark and Sacagawea Program:** City College hosted the Lewis and Clark and Sacagawea program in January 2020. Over 600 middle school students from Billings and the area learned about the Corps of Discovery, Montana tribes, and their contributions.

**Virtual Run:** The end of June and through the end of July the NAAC, ANIC, the BUIHWC, and NADC sponsored a virtual 10K run. This run was open to all students and community members with free t-shirts provided to all participants who completed the race.

**Classroom Outreach:** Project Coordinator Walter Runsabove was a guest speaker in Billings School District 2 (SD2) classes and campus classes at MSUB and City College. He made a total of 20 visits, speaking about the importance of education and providing cultural information on Plains tribes.



# Statewide Events

The following events were held during the 2019-2020 academic year.

**APSI:** NAAC faculty members and instructors partnered with the Montana Center for Inclusive Education (MCIE) to hold the Montana Advanced Placement Summer Institute (APSI) June 24-27, 2019. The APSI was attended by 56 advanced placement high school teachers from across the nation.

**Fort Peck Outreach:** The Chancellor and Interim Director McGeshick traveled to the Fort Peck Indian Reservation and met with the local reservation school superintendents, the Fort Peck Community College President, and her staff to increase partnerships and networking. They met with Brockton, Poplar, Wolf Point, and Frazer school districts.

The first week of March Interim Director McGeshick and the Dean of the College of Education, Dr. Robert Nava, traveled to the Fort Peck Indian Reservation and met with the tribal college presidents and tribal council members to seek out future partnerships in education fields.

**Little Big Horn College Outreach:** In December, Interim Director McGeshick had a meeting with Little Big Horn College President Dr. David Yarlott. This was the first of two meetings aimed at future partnering with tribal colleges and MSUB.

**Northern Cheyenne and Crow Outreach:** During the last week of February, Interim Director McGeshick and the Dean of the College of Education, Dr. Robert Nava, traveled to the Northern Cheyenne and Crow Indian Reservations and met with the tribal college presidents and tribal council members to seek out future partnerships in education fields. Associate Dean Florence Garcia made visits to the Crow and Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservations in January to connect with tribal college presidents and staff.



**MMIW/MMIP Efforts:** In March, the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth (HSC) and MSUB announced a new collaboration that will use forensics to address the national epidemic of missing or murdered Indigenous Women/Indigenous Persons. Through the agreement, the HSC-based UNT Center for Human Identification and MSU Billings will establish forensic capabilities to use DNA to resolve missing person cases, solve crimes and help prevent human trafficking. The partnership will grow MSU Billings' student research and internship opportunities. This is the only partnership and agreement in Montana doing such work on the college level.

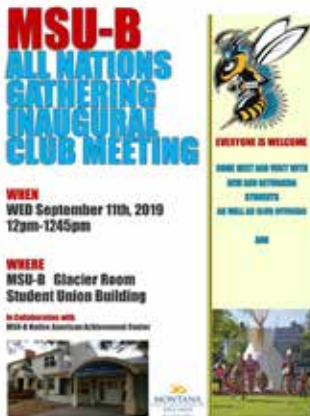
**Powwow Outreach:** During summer 2019, Interim Director McGeshick traveled to multiple powwows across Montana for tabling and recruiting. On August 1-2, he attended the Wadopana Powwow in Wolf Point, on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation. On August 9-10, Chancellor Dan Edelman and his wife joined McGeshick in attending the Poplar Indian Days Powwow in Poplar, Montana on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation. On August 15-16, Chancellor Edelman and his wife, Provost Melinda Arnold and her husband, and MSU Billings Foundation President and CEO Bill Kennedy joined McGeshick at the Crow Fair Powwow on the Crow Indian Reservation.





# Student Events

The following events were held during the 2019-2020 academic year.



**All Nations Indian Club (ANIC):** The ANIC is open to all MSUB students. ANIC plans events and, most importantly, assists in planning the MSU Billings Powwow. Pizza and beverages were provided at meetings. The ANIC provides a peer support network for Native and non-Native students.

**Club Launch:** On September 11, ANIC held their first meeting and elected officers for the year. 2019-2020 members included Native American members from each Montana tribe, Native American nations from across the U.S. and non-Native students from Montana, the U.S., Pakistan, India, and Slovakia. Membership totaled 33 members.

**Halloween Party:** In October, ANIC sponsored a Halloween Party that was attended by students, families, and community members.



**Student Outreach:** In January, ANIC hosted a student and family bowling and pizza night.



**Valentine's Day Celebration:** The ANIC hosted a Valentine's Day Round Dance and Potluck at the Billings First Congregational Church which included singing, drumming, and speakers. The event was open to students and community members.

**COVID-19 Response:** The NAAC developed a COVID-19 plan from MUS guidelines. In addition, the end of April and first week of May the All Nations Indian Club partnered with the BUIHWC to sponsor a COVID-19 virtual wellness call-in helpline during the crisis. They also handed out COVID-19 care bags at the Center for pickup. The bags included Sweetgrass, literature, candy, stress relief items, and more. The

ANIC continued to meet via WebEx once classes transitioned to online due to COVID-19. There was great participation!





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