

2022 GOVERNOR'S TRIBAL RELATIONS REPORT – AGENCY NARRATIVE SUBMISSION FORM  
(for the reporting period July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022)

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*Purpose: The Tribal Relations Report showcases the state-tribal cooperative work and highlights efforts in support of the Governor's vision for Montana.*

1. **Submission Date:** June 14, 2022
2. **State Agency/Division/Program:** Great Falls College Montana State University
3. **Narrative Coordinator Name:** Katherine Meier **Phone/Email:** 406-771-4311, Katherine.meier@gfcmsu.edu
4. **Activity Name** *Great Falls College MSU Native American Enrichment Center*
5. **Program Staff Name:** Katherine Meier **Phone/Email:** 406-771-4311, Katherine.meier@gfcmsu.edu

6. **Select Tribe(s) Involved:**

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

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

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Started before FY 2022       | <input type="checkbox"/> Started during FY 2022             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ongoing/Long-Term | <input type="checkbox"/> Completed/finalized during FY 2022 |

*In the next sections, please make sure to spell out acronyms and acknowledge the source when the materials (text/data/photographs) came from 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.

Great Falls College MSU provides culturally responsive high-impact practices that assist traditionally underrepresented student populations in pursuing higher education. Programming includes 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.

Activities at Great Falls College:

- In October, Great Falls College was pleased to welcome Regent Amy Sexton and the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council for a tour on our campus.
- On October 28, 2021, Great Falls College's Native American Group, in partnership with Great Falls Public Schools Native American Department and its Director, Dugan Coburn, raised a tipi on our campus in honor of Native American Heritage Month.
- To celebrate our first-generation college students on Monday, November 8, 2021, Native American students Rylee Mitchell and Gary Trotchie shared their experiences of being dedicated and motivated to achieve academic success with a group of visiting high schoolers.

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---

- The Great Falls College Communications and Marketing Department interviewed Native American alumni to highlight their academic accomplishments and shared these interviews on social media. Among those were:
  - Alger Swingley, a graduate of the paramedic program, spoke about the increasing demand and wages for paramedics locally, state-wide, and nationally.
  - Brian Tucker, who completed the Welding and Industrial Technician programs, shared his life's story of addiction, incarceration and perseverance. Looking for a life change upon completing Veterans Treatment Court, Brian enrolled at Great Falls College. Brian was also selected as a 2022 Growing a Safer Montana Scholarship award recipient by Montana State Fund.
  - Jaynee Leigland, graduate of the Physical Therapy Assistant program, shared her experiences of being a hands-on learner and utilizing the academic support services offered through the Native American Enrichment Center.
- On May 7, 2022, Great Falls College honored 16 Native American graduating students with beaded eagle feathers to honor their accomplishments. The significance of receiving an eagle feather is one of the most powerful honors that an indigenous person can receive.
  - Three of the eagle feather recipients were honored at the annual Student Appreciation Luncheon on April 25 where they were presented with their awards: Daniel Betcher, Computer Technology Department; Emily Stene, Natural Sciences Department; and Shyanne Gardipee, Dental Assistant Program.
- Eight new tribal flags, mounted on 8-foot poles, are on display at Great Falls College. Dugan Coburn smudged the new tribal flags during the Native American Eagle Feather Ceremony. The flags were on display during the commencement exercises.
- Native American leaders from across Montana and the United States presented at the Class 7 professional training workshop at Great Falls College on June 7 and June 8. The Class 7 indigenous and cultures specialist license allows experts in native languages and cultures to teach in K-12 public schools in Montana.
- Over the course of the 2021-22 academic school year, Great Falls College hosted 128 Native American students from Rocky Boy, Frazer, Browning, and Box Elder schools.
- Below are data related specifically to the Fall 2021 cohort of students using the Native American Enrichment Center at Great Falls College

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

- United States American Indian and Alaska Native population is approximately 1.1%.<sup>1</sup>
- Montana's American Indian and Alaska Native population is approximately 6.2%.<sup>1</sup>
- Great Falls College American Indian or Alaska Native population was approximately 10.5% of the entire student body. Excluding dual enrollment high school students, American Indian or Alaska Native students made up 13.8% of the student population.<sup>2</sup>
- Approximately 3.7% of students who identified themselves as American Indian or Alaska Native visited the Native American Enrichment Center (NAEC).<sup>2,3</sup>

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**Native American Enrichment Center (NAEC) Visits**

- The NAEC had 36 visits from 6 students.<sup>3</sup>
  - Of the 6 students, 5 were enrolled in courses either at census or end-of-term. Therefore, the retention and GPA data were based on those 5 students.

**Grade Point Average Stats<sup>5</sup>**

- Students using the NAEC: 2.68\*<sup>3,5</sup>
- American Indian or Alaska Native students not using the NAEC average: 2.80\*<sup>3,5</sup>
- Non-NAEC students (including American Indian or Alaska Native): 2.91 \*<sup>3,5</sup>

*\*These data exclude High School Dual Enrollment Students.*

**Retention Rates from Fall 2021 to Spring 2022** (does not include students who transferred)<sup>3,4</sup>

- Retention rate for students who used the NAEC: 80.0%
- Retention rate for non-NAEC students (excluding high school students): 72.3%

*\*Retention was defined as the proportion of students who were either enrolled at Great Falls College in Spring 2022 as of census date, May 12, or graduated in Fall 2021.*

**Sources:**

<sup>1</sup>U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Decennial Census, using “American Indian and Alaska Native alone,”

<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

9. In 1-2 paragraphs, describe **any new law, rule, or policy** related to your program that impact state-tribal relations, Indian people and tribal communities. N/A
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.
11. Are there **photographs** to support the narrative? ( X ) Yes ( ) No  
*Please submit photographs in JPEG format, in high resolution (300 DPI minimum) and specify below the file name, caption and credit for each photograph.*

Photo File Name: 1. Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council

Photo Caption: Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council, Great Falls College MSU, October 8,

2021, Photo Credit: Scott Thompson, Great Falls College MSU.

**2022 GOVERNOR'S TRIBAL RELATIONS REPORT – AGENCY NARRATIVE SUBMISSION FORM**  
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---

Photo File Name: 2. Raising Tipi Poles

Photo Caption: Raising Tipi Poles, Julien Stanley, Gary Trotchie, Great Falls College MSU, October 28, 2021. Photo Credit: Katherine Meier, Great Falls College MSU.

Photo File Name: 3. Students Raising Tipi

Photo Caption: Students Raising Tipi, Great Falls College MSU students, Great Falls College MSU, October 28, 2021. Photo Credit: Katherine Meier, Great Falls College MSU.

Photo File Name: 4. Raising Tipi Pole

Photo Caption: Raising Tipi Pole, Julien Stanley, Great Falls College MSU, October 28, 2021  
Photo Credit: Katherine Meier, Great Falls College MSU.

Photo File Name: 5. Paramedic Interview

Photo Caption: Paramedic Interview, Alger Swingley, Scott Thompson, Great Falls College MSU, October 1, 2021,

Photo Credit: Katherine Meier, Great Falls College MSU.

Photo File Name: 6. Growing a Safer Montana

Photo Caption: Growing a Safer Montana Scholarship, Chase Tay, Brian Tucker, Great Falls College MSU, January 13, 2022, Photo Credit: Rion Sanders, Great Falls College MSU.

Photo File Name: 7. Natural Sciences Student of the Year

Photo Caption: Emily Stene, Great Falls College MSU, April 25, 2022,

Photo Credit: Rion Sanders, Great Falls College MSU.

Photo File Name: 8. Dental Assistant of the Year

Photo Caption: Shyanne Gardipee, Great Falls College MSU, April 25, 2022,

Photo Credit: Rion Sanders, Great Falls College MSU.

Photo File Name: 9. Beading Eagle Feathers

Photo Caption: Beading Eagle Feathers, Kellie Anderson-Taves, Katherine Meier, Great Falls College MSU, May 3, 2022, Photo Credit: Rion Sanders, Great Falls College MSU.

Photo File Name: 10. Smudging Feathers

Photo Caption: Eagle Feather Ceremony, Dugan Coburn, Great Falls College MSU, May 7, 2022,

Photo Credit: Rion Sanders, Great Falls College MSU.

Photo File Name: 11. Eagle Feather Recipients

Photo Caption: Eagle Feather Ceremony, Front Row: LouVon Doll, Dani Flynn, Randee Demontiney, Elise Conter, Tristan Burkstrand, Sarah Brovold, Cody Brisbo, Back row: Shyanne Gardipee, Amanda Larsen, Jaynee Leigland, Amberly Lessard, Julian Stanley, Emily Stene, Daniel Betcher, Brian Tucker. Great Falls College MSU, May 7, 2022,

Photo Credit: Rion Sanders, Great Falls College MSU.

**2022 GOVERNOR’S TRIBAL RELATIONS REPORT – AGENCY NARRATIVE SUBMISSION FORM**  
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Photo File Name: 12. Class 7 Professional Training Workshop  
Photo Caption: Plains Indian Hand Talking, Marvin Weatherwax, Sr., Dr. Lanny Realbird, Great Falls College MSU, June 7, 2022, Photo Credit: Rion Sanders, Great Falls College MSU.

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





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