

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 17, 2022
2. **State Agency/Division/Program:** UMW Department of Education
3. **Narrative Coordinator Name:** Vikki Howard, Lona Running Wolf **Phone/Email:** 406-683-7042, [vikki.howard@umwestern.edu](mailto:vikki.howard@umwestern.edu)
4. **Activity Name** *(the file name should reference this topic):* Akbaawaachimmihche Crow Teachers Project/Poomotsisinni Blackfeet Teachers Project
5. **Program Staff Name:** **Phone/Email:**

6. **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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Crow                |  |

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

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" 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.

*The University of Montana Western partners with Blackfeet Community College and Little Big Horn College in delivering a range of degree/licensure programs: elementary education, special education, secondary post baccalaureate programs and library media.*

*Partnerships in delivering in vivo teacher education program in the aforementioned Tribal communities include public schools: Browning Public Schools, Heart Butte Public Schools, Pryor Public Schools, Lodge Grass Public Schools and Hardin Public Schools.*

*Projects are funded by the US Department of Education Office of Indian Education and private donations and grants. Total cost of delivery is approximately \$750,000 each year.*

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.

Not applicable.

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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.

	BCC Students	LBHC Students	UMW Graduates/ Completers	Teachers of Blackfeet Students	Teachers of Crow Students
2016-17*	9				
2017-18	31		7	9	
2018-19*	31		20	36	
2019-20	32	24	8	39	6
2020-21	34	30	13/10	50	19
2021-22*	38	28		62 (Lost 4)	25

Current Students 2021 Grants

	Blackfeet Community College Partner	Little Big Horn College Partner
Elementary Education	22	20
Special Education	5	2
Post Bacc Secondary Education	3	0
Library Media	1	N/A
Early Childhood	2	
Non Native	0	4
Total	33	26

11. Are there **photographs** to support the narrative? ( ) Yes ( X ) 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:

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

Photo Credit:

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

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12. **Submission Date:** June 17, 2022  
13. **State Agency/Division/Program:** UMW Department of Education: Early Childhood Education  
14. **Narrative Coordinator Name:** Jen Gilliard **Phone/Email:** 406-498-1888/jen.gilliard@umwestern.edu  
15. **Activity Name** (*the file name should reference this topic*): Tribal Head Start and Voices of Montana's American Indian Early Educators  
16. **Program Staff Name:** Jen Gilliard, Terri Barclay **Phone/Email:** [jen.gilliard@umwestern.edu](mailto:jen.gilliard@umwestern.edu); [terri.barclay@umwestern.edu](mailto:terri.barclay@umwestern.edu)

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

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Fort Belknap      |
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18. Please specify when this state-tribal activity started and if it is ongoing or finalized.

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19. 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.

Jen Gilliard led two projects this year in support of American Indian students at UMW.

- UMW is in its second year of a five-year Tribal Head Start subgrant funded by the Federal Head Start Office. The UMW subgrant amount is \$171,000 annually for five years. Stone Child College is the grantee with four partners including Blackfeet Community College, Aaniih Nakoda College, Fort Belknap Community College, and The University of Montana Western. UMW established articulation agreements with partnering tribal colleges, and graduates from these colleges are completing B.S. degrees in Teaching and Learning in Early Childhood Education or Early Childhood Education: PreK-Grade 3. The Office of Head Start agreed to allow UMW to help build capacity for quality child care on the Crow Reservation and for the Little Shell Tribe by allowing us to support Little Shell and Crow tribe B.S. students living in Billings and Great Falls in addition to students working at Head Start programs who graduated from associate-level early childhood education programs at ANC, BCC, FPCC, and SCC. To date, we have had two BS graduates, and we anticipate four more BS graduates next year. We are currently serving 14 American Indian students on this grant, and we anticipate enrollment of for or five more students from the Rocky Boy Reservation, fall

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2022. The special feature of the UMW online grant program is a full-time, grant-funded, online student mentor who supports students through academic tutoring, problem solving, and navigation of higher education.

- Jen Gilliard is the executive producer of a video project entitled: *Voices of Montana's American Indian Early Childhood Educators*. Funding for the project was provided by UMW. Twenty-seven American Indian Educators were interviewed; interviewees from all of Montana's reservations were interviewed in person in the schools, childcare, and Head Start/Early Head Start programs where they work. We included interviews with two teachers who are members of the Little Shell Tribe, one interview was conducted in Great Falls. Ms. Julie Cajune served as the cultural consultant, Frank Tyro served as the videographer or video producer, and Jen Gilliard served as the project or executive producer. All videos including an introductory video are ready to be presented on a webpage on the UMW website; our ECE faculty will imbed the voices videos throughout our degree curriculum or classes, telling the stories our American Indian teachers in Montana want all educators to know about educating American Indian youth.

The purpose of this project is twofold: a) we want our preservice teachers to hear the voices of American Indian educators in Montana and learn from these voices how to provide culturally-responsive curriculum and instruction to American Indian children, ultimately helping to narrow the academic achievement gap between American Indian youth and European American youth in Montana. In addition, we hope that our American Indian preservice teachers at UMW will see and hear reflections of themselves and their culture throughout our early childhood education degree curriculum, providing more culturally-relevant ECE curriculum for American Indian preservice teachers in UMW ECE degree programs.

20. 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

21. 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.

Described under impact of program.

22. Are there **photographs** to support the narrative? ( ) Yes (x) 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.*

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

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No