

2023 GOVERNOR'S TRIBAL RELATIONS REPORT – AGENCY NARRATIVE SUBMISSION FORM
(for the reporting period July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023)

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 6, 2023
2. **State Agency/Division/Program:** Great Falls College MSU
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
Ashley Haley, 406-771-5127, ashley.haley@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 2023 | <input type="checkbox"/> Started during FY 2023 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ongoing/Long-Term | <input type="checkbox"/> Completed/finalized during FY 2023 |

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 MSU:

- September 27, 2022, at 10:00 a. m. students at Great Falls College raised a tipi under the direction of Great Falls Public Schools Native American Department Director Dugan Coburn to honor Native American Heritage Week.

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- During Native American Heritage Month, the Office of Student Engagement presented the film about Elouise Cobell titled *100 Years: One Woman's Fight for Justice* on November 23rd and 30th.
- In January of 2023, Ashley Haley, a Chippewa Cree Tribal member, came on board as our Native American Enrichment Center Ambassador. Ashley has a strong background in community outreach including working with the Little Shell tribe and Great Falls Public Schools. She provides advocacy that contributes to the overall academic success and persistence of indigenous students.
- January through June, 2023, the college received 10 hours of consulting from Native-owned Bright Trail Education on retaining American Indian students by making them feel a part of the college community. Consulting included a walk-through of campus, a review of printed materials, and a review of the college's website with recommendations for being more inclusive.
- March 2023, Great Falls College Executive Council approved funding the Native American Enrichment Center Ambassador position from current unrestricted funds rather than relying on grants to give the position more permanence.
- March 30, 2023, Browning Educational Talent Search brought 20 students to campus. Ashley Haley led the tour.
- On April 3rd and 4th, 2023, Ashley Haley represented Great Falls College MSU at the Montana Tribal College fairs at Stone Child College on the Rocky Boy's Reservation and Blackfeet Community College in Browning. The college fairs are presented by the Montana Post-Secondary Educational Opportunities Council at the tribal colleges around the state to target college transfer students, high school students, parents and community members.
- On May 6, 2023, as part of the college's commencement activities, Great Falls College honored 7 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.
- On April 7, April 10, and June 6, 2023, two very engaging Native American educators, Jordann Lankford and Miranda Murray, provided insight into the American Indian culture and lead a discussion on ways faculty and staff can help American Indian students connect to campus and be successful. The face-to-face and virtual workshops were provided through a Perkins grant received by the college entitled "American Indian Engagement & Retention Through Collegiate Support." Jordann and Miranda are the leading facilitators of Bright Trail Education as well as Indian Education for All instructional coaches for the Great Falls Public School District. Fifty-nine staff and faculty attended the events. The workshop counted for the Office of Public Instruction continuing education credits as well as Tenure & Promotion professional development for faculty.
- The Great Falls College Communications and Marketing Department interviewed Native American students to highlight their academic accomplishments and shared these interviews on social media. Among those were:
 - Jaida Bynum
 - Sierra Thomas

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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.

Fall 2022 Native American Enrichment Center Report

National, State, and Great Falls College Quick Stats:

- United States American Indian and Alaska Native population is approximately 2.0%.¹
 - 0.7% of the U.S. population identified as only American Indian or Alaska Native.
 - 1.3% of the U.S. population identified as American Indian or Alaska Native and one or more other races. ¹
- Montana’s American Indian or Alaska native population is approximately 8.7%.¹
 - 6.0% of Montana’s population identified as only American Indian or Alaska Native.
 - 2.7% of Montana’s population identified as American Indian or Alaska Native and one or more other races. ¹
- Great Falls College MSU American Indian or Alaska Native population in Fall 2022 was approximately 9.6% of the entire student body. Excluding dual enrollment high school students, American Indian or Alaska Native students made up 11.7% of the matriculated student population.²
- Approximately 8.8% of students who self-identified as American Indian or Alaska Native visited the Native American Enrichment Center (NAEC). ^{2,3}

Native American Enrichment Center Visits

- In Fall 2022 the NAEC had 188 visits from 22 students.³

Grade Point Average Stats for Fall 2022⁵

- Students using the NAEC: 2.74*^{3,5}
- American Indian or Alaska Native students not using the NAEC average: 2.80*^{3,5}
- Non-NAEC students (including American Indian or Alaska Native): 2.97*^{3,5}

**These data exclude High School Dual Enrollment Students (“StuType H”)*

Retention Rates from Fall 2022 to Spring 2023 (includes students who transferred) ^{3,4}

- Retention rate for students who used the NAEC: 90.9%
- Retention rate for non-NAEC students (excluding high school students): 76.7%

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**Retention was defined as the proportion of students who were either still enrolled at GFC MSU in Spring 2023 as of census date, graduated in Fall 2022, or transferred to another college as of Spring 2023 census date (January 30, 2023).*

Sources:

¹U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Decennial Census Redistricting Data (PL 94-171), <https://data.census.gov/>

²Montana University System data warehouse-enrollment table, using “MT Race” variable

³Native American Enrichment Center report

⁴Graduation report from Registrar’s Office ⁵MUS
warehouse Enrollment table

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. Tobacco Offering at Tipi Raising

Photo Caption: Great Falls College MSU Tipi Raising, Dugan Coburn, Great Falls MSU Campus, September 30, 2022.

Photo Credit: Katherine Meier



Photo File Name: 2. Tying Ropes for Tipi Raising

Photo Caption: Great Falls College MSU Tipi Raising, Dugan Coburn, Great Falls MSU Campus, September 30, 2022.

Photo Credit: Katherine Meier

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Photo File Name: 3. Raising Tipi Poles

Photo Caption: Great Falls College MSU Tipi Raising, Skye Stanley, Great Falls MSU Campus, September 30, 2022.

Photo Credit: Katherine Meier

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Photo File Name: 4. Great Falls College MSU Students

Photo Caption: Great Falls College MSU Tipi Raising, Students, Great Falls MSU Campus, September 30, 2022.

Photo Credit: Katherine Meier

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Photo File Name: 5. Ashley Haley at Montana Tribal College Fair

Photo Caption: Montana Tribal College Fair, Ashley Haley, Blackfeet Community College, April 4, 2023.

Photo Credit: Ashley Haley



Photo File Name: 6. Smudging at Eagle Feather Ceremony

Photo Caption: Great Falls College MSU Eagle Feather Ceremony, Ceyara Rose Henderson, Dugan Coburn, Montana ExpoPark Pacific Steel & Recycling Arena, May 6, 2023

Photo Credit: Rion Sanders



Photo File Name: 7. Smudging Eagle Feather

Photo Caption: Great Falls College MSU Eagle Feather Ceremony, Dugan Coburn, Montana
ExpoPark Pacific Steel & Recycling Arena, May 6, 2023

Photo Credit: Rion Sanders

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Photo File Name: 8. Receiving Eagle Feather

Photo Caption: Great Falls College MSU Eagle Feather Ceremony, Raylene Parker, Montana ExpoPark Pacific Steel & Recycling Arena, May 6, 2023

Photo Credit: Rion Sanders

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

N/A