

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:** May 15, 2023
2. **State Agency/Division/Program:** Montana State University Billings
3. **Narrative Coordinator Name:** Sunny Day Real Bird
4. **Phone/Email:** (406) 657-2144 / sunnyday.realbird@msubillings.edu
5. **Activity Name:** *Academic Support Center Peer Navigators Embedded in the Native American Achievement Center*
6. **Program Staff Name:** Katharine Moffat, Retention Director - Academic Support Center
7. **Phone/Email:** (406) 657-1695/Katharine.moffat@msubillings.edu

8. **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 | |

9. 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.

10. 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 Academic Support Center at Montana State University Billings (MSUB) employs approximately 8 Peer Navigators each semester to support primarily first-year and at-risk students in a peer mentoring capacity. In Fall 2022, one of the Peer Navigators was embedded in the Native American Achievement Center (NAAC). In Spring 2023, two Peer Navigators were embedded in the NAAC and provided important retention and registration-related support to American Indian students. The embedded Peer Navigators work out of the NAAC and meet with students in that space, while maintaining close connections with the Academic Support Center and other student support spaces on campus.

Peer Navigators are assigned a cohort of students that they communicate with several times per week. Through email, text, and in-person meetings, the Peer Navigators help students understand key academic deadlines and procedures, provide assistance with creating advising appointments and registering for courses, help navigate institutional holds, and refer students to both on- and off-campus resources, such as the Yellowjacket Emergency Pantry, Crisis Fund Application, TRIO Student Support Services, Academic Support Center, Student Health and Counseling, and others.

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The Peer Navigators embedded in the NAAC are also American Indian themselves and participate in many of the NAAC’s cultural and social events. These Peer Navigators become trusted resources for other American Indian students and help them navigate a diverse range of challenges.

11. 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.
12. 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.

In Fall 2022, Peer Navigators served approximately 90 American Indian students at MSUB. This includes first-year students on both the University Campus and City College campuses, 2nd year students at the City College campus, and students on Academic Probation and Academic Warning statuses. In Spring 2023, Peer Navigators served approximately 85 American Indian students at MSUB. Additional American Indian students were served through the Academic Support Centers on both campuses for tutoring and Supplemental Instruction supports. The Peer Navigator program continues to expand; Peer Navigators are also tasked with conducting outreach to additional students throughout the semester as academic difficulties arise.

Amongst other initiatives and efforts stemming from the Native American Achievement Center, the impact of the embedded Peer Navigators has contributed to a 19-percentage point increase in American Indian student retention for first-year students from Fall to Spring semesters, compared to 2021-2022.

13. 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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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 2, 2023
2. **State Agency/Division/Program:** Montana State University Billings
3. **Narrative Coordinator Name:** Sunny Day Real Bird **Phone/Email:** 406-657-2144
4. **Activity Name:** *College of Business 2+2 Partnerships and Prospective Partnerships Conference*
5. **Program Staff Name:** Ed Garding, Interim Dean – College of Business
Phone/Email: 406-657-2213

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

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

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|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Started before FY 2023 | <input type="checkbox"/> Started during FY 2023 |
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Montana State University Billings (MSUB) - College of Business has signed Articulation Agreements with seven regional community and four-year colleges. These Partner institutions include: Great Falls Community College MSU; Miles Community College; Casper College; Western Wyoming Community College; Northwest College; Fort Peck Tribal College; and City College in Billings, MT. The 2+2 Partnerships denotes that students who attend college for 2 years may apply to MSUB to complete 2 more years of college and receive a Bachelor of Arts degree. Signed articulation agreements between these colleges and MSUB assure students that all their course credits will transfer equally to MSUB-College of Business degree programs.

To enhance instructors’ knowledge and awareness of the MSUB Campus, its professors, and support services, MSUB College of Business hosted a conference for its 2+2 Partner institutions in December 2021 on the MSUB campus in Billings, MT. At the end of the Conference, attendees left with a better understanding of MSUB, its in-person and online teaching technologies and materials about the MSBU College of Business programs. With MSUB’s online capacities, students can finish their four-year degrees while living in their home communities if they prefer.

MSUB College of Business hosted a second 2+2 Conference in December 2022 to offer the opportunity for those Partners who were not able to attend in 2021 and to invite “prospective partners” to attend. Attendees included representatives from Casper College; Northwest College; Fort Peck

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Tribal College; City College-Billings and Chief Dull Knife College, a prospective partner. With a similar format as the previous year's conference, the agenda also included sessions where attendees provided their insights and ideas to improve outreach to their students, their student experience, and their enrollment at MSUB to complete a four-year degree. Attached is the documentation of the attendees' feedback and action plan for each of the campus units.

Another outcome of the 2022 Conference was an invitation from the leadership team at Chief Dull Knife College, Eva Flying, President, to the MSUB Provost and representatives from the College of Education and College of Business to visit their campus in Lame Deer, MT, Spring 2023 and discuss Articulation Agreements between the colleges. Work has begun on creating these Agreements, and students who live in Lame Deer will have the option to live in Billings and attend MSUB or stay in their home communities and complete their degree. The overall goal of the 2+2 Partnerships is to help students complete their degrees, prepare themselves for the workforce, and secure higher paying jobs. Ultimately, the 2+2 Partnership with the Tribal Colleges enriches the lives of its students and those of their families and their communities.

In the future, MSUB College of Business will continue to engage its 2+2 Partners with faculty and student visits to the respective campuses; online meetings; and social media connections to highlight campus activities and events with the goal to support and improve the quality of the student experience and education.

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Photo File Name: Chief Dull Knife College

Photo Caption (include the name of the event/persons, location, and date): MSUB representatives meet with Chief Dull Knife College representatives at Chief Dull Knife College in Lame Deer, MT on April 27th, 2023.

Photo Credit: Program Coordinator, Jane Urbaska

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

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1. **Submission Date:** Tuesday, May 25, 2023
2. **State Agency/Division/Program:** Native American Achievement Center
3. **Narrative Coordinator Name:** Sunny Day Real Bird **Phone/Email:** 406-657-2144/
sunnyday.realbird@msubillings.edu
4. **Activity Name:** *Campus, Community, Statewide Outreach of the Native American Achievement Center*
5. **Program Staff Name:** Sunny Day Real Bird

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

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All | <input type="checkbox"/> Fort Belknap |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blackfeet | <input type="checkbox"/> Fort Peck |
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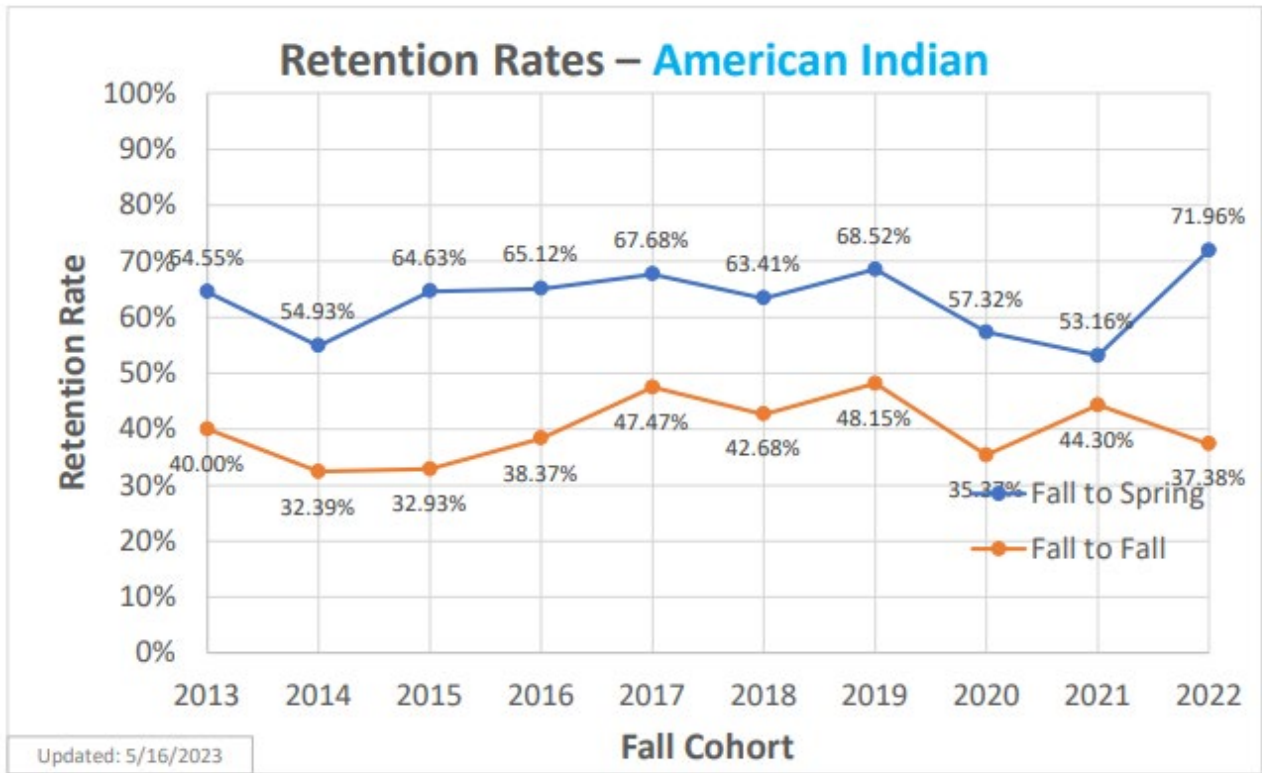
The purpose of MSU Billings' Native American Achievement Center (NAAC), as well as the Native American Studies Program, is to recruit and retain Native American students and serve as an advocate and outreach platform to Montana's Indian Reservation communities and their populations. Included in this mission are the thousands of tribal individuals living in the Billings urban area. Over the past year the NAAC has sponsored numerous activities and events on campus, within the city of Billings, and on several Montana Indian reservations.

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.

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.

MSUB's American Indian student enrollment was up 14% this past spring semester from spring semester 2022 and 19% increase in student retention.

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Photo File Name: HS101

Photo Caption: Billings School District, High School 101 Summer of 2022. June/2022

Photo Credit: Marlynn Cloud



Photo File Name: Pre.Orientation.jpg

Photo Caption: Pre-Orientation for Incoming Students & Families. June/2022

Photo Credit: Sunny Real Bird

A promotional flyer for a pre-orientation event. The flyer has a blue background with a white notepad graphic on the left side. The notepad contains the following text: "The MSU Billings Native American Achievement Center is hosting a fun and information filled experience for new students. The program is designed to support students with:" followed by a bulleted list: "• Campus resources", "• Book Stipend Information", "• Utilizing the Native American Achievement Center", "• Addressing cultural, social, and emotional concerns", and "• And much more...". To the right of the notepad is a photo of two young men standing together. At the top right of the flyer is the logo for "montana state university billings NATIVE AMERICAN ACHIEVEMENT CENTER". At the bottom left, there is a stack of books icon. The main text at the bottom reads "PRE-ORIENTATION FOR INCOMING STUDENTS & THEIR FAMILIES" in large yellow letters, followed by "2630 NORMAL AVENUE, BILLINGS MT 59101 | 406-657-2144" and "CONTACT: AMBER.PERETZ@MSUBILLINGS.EDU". A yellow box at the bottom left says "RSVP NOW!" and a URL "HTTPS://WWW.MSUBILLINGS.EDU/FYE/ORIENTATION/INDEX.HTM" is at the bottom right.

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Photo File Name: Lamedeerhealthfair.jpg
Photo Caption: Lame Deer Indian Health Service Health Fair. June/2022
Photo Credit: Amber Peretz



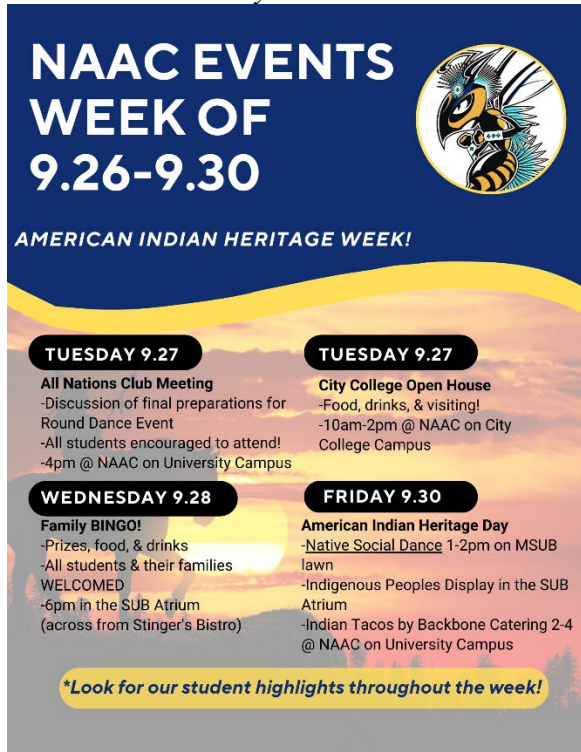
Photo File Name: GameNight.jpg
Photo Caption: Game Board Night, September 7, 2022
Photo Credit: Amber Peretz



Photo File Name: *Nativeweek.jpg*

Photo Caption: *NAAC Events, American Indian Heritage Week*

Photo Credit: *Sunny Real Bird*



**NAAC EVENTS
WEEK OF
9.26-9.30**

AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE WEEK!

TUESDAY 9.27
All Nations Club Meeting
-Discussion of final preparations for Round Dance Event
-All students encouraged to attend!
-4pm @ NAAC on University Campus

TUESDAY 9.27
City College Open House
-Food, drinks, & visiting!
-10am-2pm @ NAAC on City College Campus

WEDNESDAY 9.28
Family BINGO!
-Prizes, food, & drinks
-All students & their families
WELCOMED
-6pm in the SUB Atrium
(across from Stinger's Bistro)

FRIDAY 9.30
American Indian Heritage Day
-Native Social Dance 1-2pm on MSUB lawn
-Indigenous Peoples Display in the SUB Atrium
-Indian Tacos by Backbone Catering 2-4 @ NAAC on University Campus

***Look for our student highlights throughout the week!**

Photo File Name: *All Nation.jpg*

Photo Caption: *All Nation Club members*

Photo Credit: *Shiloh Skillen-Robinson*



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Photo File Name: FrybreadClass.jpg

Photo Caption: All Nations hosted a fry bread workshop for the campus, February 2023

Photo Credit: Amber Peretz



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1. **Submission Date:** May 31, 2023
2. **State Agency/Division/Program:** Montana State University Billings
3. **Narrative Coordinator Name:** Sunny Day Real Bird **Phone/Email:** 406.657.2144 / sunnyday.realbird@msubillings.edu
4. **Activity Name** *MSUB Housing's Inter-Tribal Pods*
5. **Program Staff Name:** Josh Hulgán, Associate Dean of Student Engagement
Phone/Email: joshua.hulgan@msubillings.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 |
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Living on campus can pose specific challenges for Native American students, similar to students from other cultural or ethnic backgrounds. These challenges encompass aspects such as cultural adjustment, stereotypes and prejudices, homesickness, and a lack of cultural representation. It is crucial to acknowledge that while these challenges exist, Montana State University Billings is dedicated to establishing an inclusive and supportive environment for all students, including Native American students.

As a result, in the 22-23 academic year, Housing & Residence Life and Native American Achievement Center at Montana State University Billings joined together to create the Inter-Tribal Pods. The primary objective of the Inter-Tribal Pods is to foster a community of individuals who share similar interests, values, and backgrounds, while offering mutual support throughout their college journey. Research indicates that living on campus brings several advantages, including affordability, convenience, peer connections, and improved academic performance.

During the academic year, residents of the Inter-Tribal Pods received invitations from staff members of Housing and the Native American Achievement Center to participate in various campus events and activities organized by multiple departments. When Native American students actively engage in university events, it can lead to numerous positive outcomes, including fostering cultural exchange and

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awareness, increasing representation and visibility, building a sense of community, providing leadership opportunities, and advocating for academic success.

In the 2022-2023 academic year, we successfully achieved our goal of accommodating eight residents in the pods. By the end of the school year, we were pleased to retain 75% of the residents, specifically six individuals. This achievement has motivated us to expand our efforts further. Our plan is to introduce additional pods for incoming freshmen on our First Year Residential Experience Floor Theme and allocate extra rooms for upperclassmen. Our aim is to increase the capacity of student pods from eight to fourteen, with the goal of fostering active engagement and ensuring that all our students have the opportunity to remain part of this inclusive community.

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11. Are there **photographs** to support the narrative? (X) Yes () No
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Photo File Name: IntertribalPods.jpg.png

Photo Caption: Promotion for Intertribal Pods, Fall 2022

Photo Credit: Shiloh Skillen-Robinson



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1. **Submission Date:** May 18th, 2023
2. **State Agency/Division/Program:** Montana State University Billings
3. **Narrative Coordinator Name:** Bernard Quetchenbach **Phone/Email:**
bquetchenbach@msubillings.edu
4. **Activity Name:** *Watershed Peoples of Montana and Amazonia*
5. **Program Staff Name:** Bernard Quetchenbach **Phone/Email:**
bquetchenbach@msubillings.edu

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

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All | <input type="checkbox"/> Fort Belknap |
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In March/April 2023, MSUB hosted Rafael Chanchari Pizuri, an internationally known Shawi Indigenous philosopher, teacher, and community leader, along with two other guests, Florida State University professor Juan Carlos Galeano, who was born and grew up in the Colombian Amazon, and Corinne Fournier Kiss, a scholar from Switzerland.

Professor Galeano and I have brought two groups of students to the Peruvian Amazon since 2019. Each study-abroad experience involved at least one Montana resident and tribal member, representing the Sioux (2019) and Crow (2022) nations, respectively. Both students participated in the 2023 program by presenting their observations and images from their experience at an on-campus session. Perhaps the most significant aspect of the trip was facilitating meetings and interactions with Montana members of the Crow and Northern Cheyenne community. The NAAC played a central role in this aspect of the program, offering facilities and assisting in logistics. Sunny Real Bird worked with tribal elders of the Crow and Northern Cheyenne nations to support this valuable intercontinental meeting of Indigenous communities.

Both Chanchari and Galeano expressed their appreciation for this major part of our program.

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Photo File Name: Bernard.jpg

Photo Caption: From left to right: Corinne Fournier Kiss of the University of Bern in Switzerland; MSUB graduates Haley Barthuly and Emmy Hailstone; poet, folklorist, and filmmaker Juan Carlos Galeano; Florida State student Madisan Chavez; MSUB graduate Laura Parces; internationally recognized Indigenous philosopher, teacher, and community leader Rafael Chanchari Pizuri; MSUB professor of English, Dr. Bernard Quetchenbach. (April/2023)

Photo Credit: Bernard Quetchenbach



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Photo File Name: Watershed.jpg

Photo Caption: Watershed People program participants Juan Carlos and Rafael Chanchari Pizuri, and Dr. Lanny Real Bird are shown with gifts presented to him by Crow elder.

Photo Credit: Sunny Day Real Bird



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1. **Submission Date:** May 31st, 2023
2. **State Agency/Division/Program:** Montana State University Billings
3. **Narrative Coordinator Name:** Dr. Matt Queen & Dr. Amanda Obery **Phone/Email:**
matt.queen1@msubillings.edu
4. **Activity Name:** *Authentic Community Engagement in Science*
5. **Program Staff Name:** Dr. Matt Queen & Dr. Amanda Obery **Phone/Email:**
matt.queen1@msubillings.edu

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

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All | <input type="checkbox"/> Fort Belknap |
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Authentic Community Engagement in Science (ACES) is a National Institute of General Medical Sciences funded program. This is a Science Education Partnership Award that is in year two of five at roughly \$1.2 million for the five years. ACES put on The Atomic Circus at Montana State University Billings. In addition to our MSUB shows this year we took the show on the road to Little Big Horn College and performed for 450 3rd-8th grade students from area schools. The show is a multimedia chemistry demonstration show featuring actors and a live band. Our Little Big Horn collaborators and contacts included Emmerson Bull Chief, Neva Tall Bear, Amber Cummins, and Cheryl Birdhat-Polacek.

In addition to our show, we have partnered with Wyola Schools to produce a 4th-8th grade next generation science standard-aligned curriculum focused on water in the Wyola community.

Teacher partners include Darrelyn Lefthand, Dorcella Plain Bull, and Jane Taylor.

This curriculum was rolled out to roughly forty students at the Wyola School District.

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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.
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: stem.jpg

Photo Caption: STEM workshop science in art activity at Little Big Horn College 5/16/23

Photo Credit: Dr. Matt Queen



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Photo File Name: STEM.jpg

Photo Caption: Dr. Queen gets ready to deliver The Atomic Circus Experience with help from the ABC band. LBHC 5/16/23

Photo Credit: Dr. Matt Queen



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

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 1, 2023
2. **State Agency/Division/Program:** Montana State University Billings
3. **Narrative Coordinator Name:** Sunny Day Real Bird **Phone/Email:** 406-657-2144/
sunnyday.realbird@msubillings.edu
4. **Activity Name:** *Worlds Apart but Not Strangers*
5. **Program Staff Name:** Tami Haaland, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences
Phone/Email: 406-657-2948 / thaaland@msubillings.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 |

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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.

Since 2016, Elk River Writing Project has held seminars for teachers that focus on cultural knowledge from Montana's Tribes. *Worlds Apart but Not Strangers* (please see the film at this link), sponsored by The Olga Lengyel Institute in New York, focuses on Holocaust Education and Indian Education for All. Now in its sixth year at Montana State University Billings, this seminar includes one or more days near Pryor where participants are invited to write about cultural presentations and about the land. The seminar brings together teachers from across Montana and from other parts of the US, and ultimately these teachers are able to take what they've learned into their classes. Facilitators for this seminar include Brenda Johnston and Marcia Beaumont, both members of the Blackfeet Tribe, and Lacy Watson. Lorrie Henrie-Koski and MSUB Dean of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Tami Haaland direct the Elk River Writing Project.

In October 2021, Elk River Writing Project collaborated with Yellowstone National Park to hold a two-day seminar for teachers focused on the natural and cultural history of the park. Sponsored by a grant from the National Writing Project based on its partnership with the National Park Service, this seminar featured park rangers and Crow Tribal member Dr. Shane Doyle, who shared Native American history of the park. Planning is underway for the second annual Yellowstone Seminar, and our long-range vision is for at least five of these seminars sponsored by a small annual grant from the National Writing Project. This program caters to teachers from Montana, and once again,

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they will share what they have learned with their classes. Photos are attached. Facilitators for this project are Lorrie Henrie-Koski and Casey Olsen.

Finally, during 2021-22, several people collaborated with Art Teacher Susan Wolfe and Lame Deer High School Students to create a film about the Great Race. Led by Preeti Vasudevan, Artistic Director of Thresh Dance, those who collaborated included Seidel Standing Elk, Cultural Knower at Lame Deer School, Ben Pease, Crow and Northern Cheyenne Artist, Alaina Buffalo Spirit, Northern Cheyenne Artist, Filmmaker and MSUB Alum, Pete Tolton, Author and Assiniboine-Chippewa Cultural Expert, Dr. Joe McGeshick, John Roberts, Associate Professor of Music, music student Jacob Decker, and MSUB Dean, Tami Haaland, Creative Writing Professor. Students visited the MSUB campus three times for two-day residencies, and several members of this team visited Lame Deer School twice during the school year. Students ultimately provided the visual art, script, sound recordings, dancing, and discussion in the film. Students played an active role in determining content and editing the final film.

- 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.
- 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? () 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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(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 12, 2023
2. **State Agency/Division/Program:** Montana State University Billings
3. **Narrative Coordinator Name:** Sunny Real Bird **Phone/Email:** 406-657-2144 / sunnyday.realbird@msubillings.edu
4. **Activity Name:** *Supporting Indigenous Arts Mastery Grant*
5. **Program Staff Name:** Sunny Real Bird **Phone/Email:** 406-657-2144 / sunnyday.realbird@msubillings.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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Started during FY 2023 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing/Long-Term | <input type="checkbox"/> Completed/finalized during FY 2023 |

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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 Native American Achievement Center (NAAC) at Montana State University Billings (MSUB) received a grant from the Supporting Indigenous Arts Mastery program to initiate a series of workshops highlighting the unique artwork and culture of the Apsáalooke (Crow) and Tséhestáno (Northern Cheyenne) tribes.

The project incorporated hands-on workshops in moccasin, feather fan, and concho belt making; lectures related to the cultural and historical significance of these objects; and a final exhibit of the student artwork completed over the three-month program.

Workshops were provided both in Billings on the MSUB campus and, in separate sessions, at Little Big Horn (LBHC, Crow) and Chief Dull Knife (CDKC, Northern Cheyenne) tribal colleges:

- Moccasin Making: 3-day workshop, once at MSUB, once at LBHC, six days total.
- Feather Fan: 3-day workshop, once at MSUB, once at LBHC, six days total.
- Concho Belt: 2-day workshop, once at MSUB, once at CDKC, four days total.

Partners for this project included the Crow and Northern Cheyenne tribes, Little Big Horn and Chief Dull Knife Colleges, the Montana Center for Inclusive Education, and the MSUB Northcutt Steele Gallery. Tribal officials were consulted prior to submitting this application in order to determine the artists and artistic areas of focus for the workshops. LBHC and CDKC will

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contribute space for workshops and will assist in promoting the project at their institution and in the communities. The Montana Center for Inclusive Education will complete the paperwork to the Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) for any teachers completing the program for continuing education credits.

This project will open up and strengthen lines of communication and establish important pathways between the Native American Achievement Center, Little Big Horn College, Chief Dull Knife College, and the Crow and Northern Cheyenne Tribes. It falls within the mission and parameters of the NAAC to continue these relations after the conclusion of the grant. The NAAC will seek further opportunities to provide additional artistic and cultural programming to and with the Crow and Northern Cheyenne tribes and communities.

Continuation of this project beyond the grant period will allow for people across college campuses and in various community roles to come together, learn, and heal through cultural art, ultimately benefitting Native students, families, and community members across the wider Billings, Crow, and Northern Cheyenne areas.

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.
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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:Picture.png.

Photo Caption: SIAM Feather Fan Workshop with Master Artist Cyle Old Elk, November 2022.

Photo Credit: Sunny Real Bird

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Photo File Name: Moccasinworkshop.jpg

Photo Caption: SIAM Grant, moccasin workshop, February 2023

Photo Credit: Sunny Real Bird



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Photo File Name: WarrenSpang.jpg
Photo Caption: SIAM Concho Belt Workshop at MSU Billings, September 18, 2022
Photo Credit: Sunny Real Bird



Photo File Name: LBHC.jpg
Photo Caption: SIAM Moccasin Workshop at Little Big Horn College, with master artist Birdie Real Bird
Photo Credit: Sunny Real Bird



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

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1. **Submission Date:** June 12, 2023
2. **State Agency/Division/Program:** Montana State University Billings
3. **Narrative Coordinator Name:** Sunny Real Bird **Phone/Email:** 406-657-2144 / sunnyday.realbird@msubillings.edu
4. **Activity Name:** 53rd Annual MSU Billings Powwow
5. **Program Staff Name:** Sunny Real Bird **Phone/Email:** 406-657-2144 / sunnyday.realbird@msubillings.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 |
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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 53rd Annual MSU Billings powwow took place on April 21st & 22nd, 2023 at Alterowitz Gym. It was an opportunity for the entire community to experience Native American cultural traditions and celebration that everyone enjoyed. The event is managed by the Native American Achievement Center, American Indigenous Business Leaders, and All Nations Club.

Cost and monetary contributions came from Billings Chamber of Commerce, Stillwater Mines, Billings Clinic, Pretty Shield Foundation, Associated Students of MSU Billings, Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders, and First Interstate Bank with a total over \$19,000.

Over 2,000 people attended the two-day event with an overall budget of \$35,000 and revenue of \$3,425 from vendors tables.

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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: powwow2023.1.jpg

Photo Caption: 53rd Annual MSU Billings Powwow, April 22nd, 2023, Grand Entry

Photo Credit: Sunny Real Bird



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Photo File Name: powwow2023.jpg

Photo Caption: 53rd Annual MSU Billings Powwow, April 22nd, 2023, Grand Entry

Photo Credit: Sunny Real Bird



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2. **State Agency/Division/Program:** Montana State University Billings
3. **Narrative Coordinator Name:** Sunny Real Bird **Phone/Email:** 406-657-2144 /
4. sunnyday.realbird@msubillings.edu
5. **Activity Name:** *Articulation Agreement Between Fort Peck Community College & Montana State University Billings*
6. **Program Staff Name:** Dr. Cheri Johannes, University Registrar & Records
Phone/Email: cjohannes@msubillings.edu
7. **Select Tribe(s) Involved:**

<input type="checkbox"/> All	<input type="checkbox"/> Fort Belknap
<input type="checkbox"/> Blackfeet	<input checked="" 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	
8. 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

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On September 14th, 2022, the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Dr. Sep Eskandari along with Director of American Indian Outreach, Sunny Real Bird traveled to Fort Peck Community College to visit with their administration. Dr. Sep Eskandari gifted Pendleton blankets to their administration in honor of the 2+2 program between the two colleges. This agreement allows students from Fort Peck Community College who complete an Associate of Art in Business Administration with the General Business, Accounting, Finance, Management, or Marketing Option degree at MSU Billings.

Any FPCC student who has earned an Associate of Arts degree with coursework that adheres to those guidelines within this agreement is guaranteed that MSUB will accept designated major related credits and that all general education credits will apply to the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree in a manner consistent with the treatment of all MSUB students.

10. 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.

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12. Are there **photographs** to support the narrative? (X) Yes () No
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Photo File Name: FortPeck.jpg

Photo Caption: MSU Billings & Fort Peck Community College Administration, September 14, 2022

Photo Credit: Sunny Real Bird



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