

# College Access Update

**Travis Anderson, Montana GEAR UP Director**

**Jeannie Origbo, Montana Educational Talent Search Director**

September 16, 2020



## New in 2020:

- First-year service partnerships
- Online student learning and mentoring
- Online professional development
- ACT test update



As always, Montana GEAR UP is focused on providing our schools with resources to **help their students be prepared for success** in postsecondary education.

## Goals of First-Year Service Campus Partnerships:

- Increase **on-campus supports** for GEAR UP students with emphasis on first-year success and persistence to second year
- Provide **culturally responsive** services and activities
- Collect **data** related to student outcomes and services

For the 2020-2021 Academic Year, **nearly \$360,000** was awarded to:

- MSU Bozeman
- MSU Bozeman AISS
- UM Missoula
- UM Missoula AISS
- MSU Billings
- Flathead Valley Community College
- Salish Kootenai College

## Online Student Learning & Mentoring

- Finalizing contract with Student Success Agency for **online mentoring**
- Open RFP for **online tutoring** and academic support

## Online Professional Development

- Transitioned all professional developments online because of COVID-19
- Upcoming topics:
  - Trauma informed educational practices
  - Teaching through a cultural lens
  - GEAR Up national, regional, and state virtual events
  - Youth Leadership Academy (YLA)

- Due to COVID-19, Spring 2020 ACT testing was postponed
- Combined effort between OCHE, OPI, and ACT to offer ACT test in October 2020 instead

## METS serves nine communities across Montana:

**Browning  
Great Falls  
Hardin  
Heart Butte  
Lodge Grass  
Pablo  
Polson  
Ronan  
St. Ignatius**



**2019 Summer STEM Campus & Career Exploration Trip**



**Academic Year Career Visit**

**2019-2020 METS Student Leaders Kickoff Conference**



Where We Are

What We Do



- Monday Motivations
- Outreach Wednesdays
- Financial Aid Fridays
- Career Cluster of the Month
- Live Events:
  - Career Exploration
  - Campus Visits
- Employable (Soft) Skills



**FINANCIAL LITERACY**

## WHERE TO START?

**MONTANA ETS**  
EDUCATIONAL TALENT SEARCH

- Create a Budget
- Prioritize spending (wants vs. needs)
- Learn about credit and credit cards.
- Plan for the future

### Outreach Wednesday August 5

We are a long term support program. Let us help you begin your journey in middle school to support you through high school graduation.

**Believe** **Achieve**

**Plan**




**MONTANA ETS**  
EDUCATIONAL TALENT SEARCH

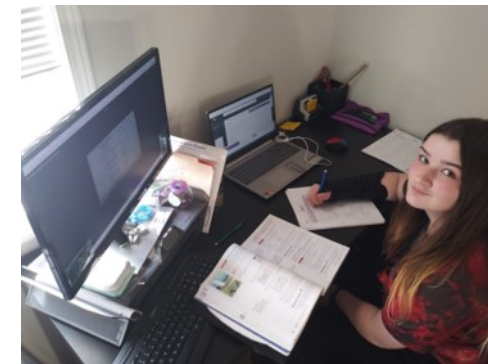
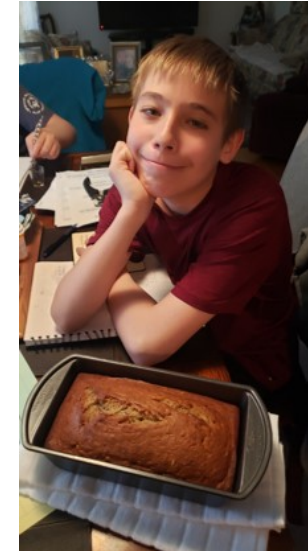
## Virtual Campus Exploration

August 3rd - 7th

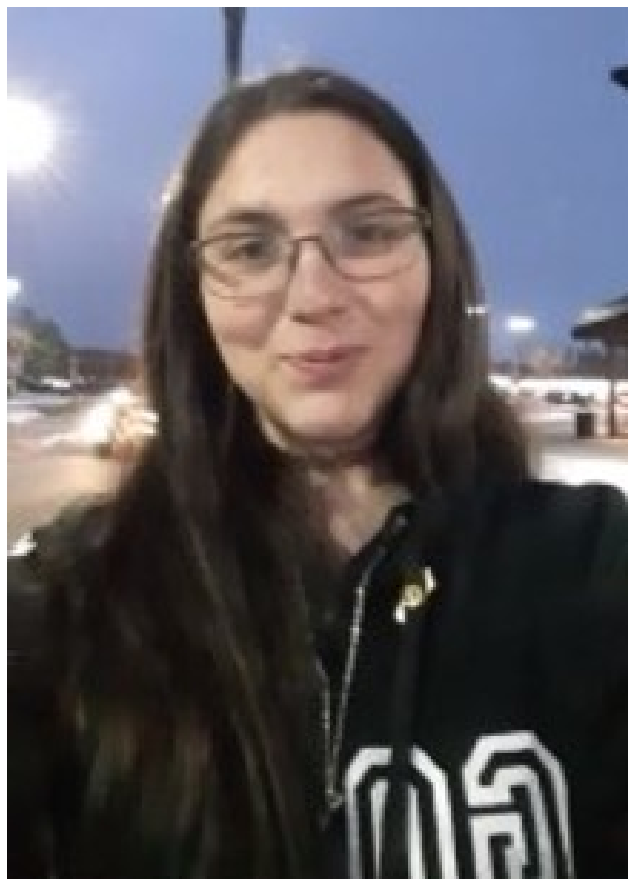
				
<b>Carroll College</b>	<b>Great Falls College</b>	<b>Washington State University</b>	<b>Gonzaga University</b>	<b>University of Minnesota -- Rochester</b>
August 3rd 1:00 pm MDT	August 4th 1:00 pm MDT	August 5th 1:00 pm MDT	August 6th 1:00 pm MDT	August 7th 1:00 pm MDT

Join our Facebook Live Events with representatives from institutions in Montana, Washington, and Minnesota.

- Transition to online application
- Fillable PDF program documents
- New streaming platforms
- Increased social media engagement
- Surveys to students, school personnel, and guardians in Spring 2020
- Virtual, in-person, and hybrid workshops







**Jazmin**

Junior, St. Ignatius

- Attended 31st Annual National Student Leadership Congress (NSLC) virtually June 15-19, 2020.
- Participated in a digital Mock Congress competition, diversity and inclusion training, interactive online workshops, virtual tours, and a virtual day on Capitol Hill.



**Madi**

Senior, Great Falls



**GEAR UP Week**

September 21 – 25, 2020

**College Application Week**

September 28 – October 2, 2020

**FAFSA Completion Month**

October 2020

**First Generation Day**

November 9, 2020

**TRIO Day**

February 22, 2021

**College Signing Week**

May 3 – 7, 2021



**None of our work is possible without the dedication  
of our great team!**

**Derek Calvert**, METS Program Manager

**Shonna Dillon**, METS Pre-College Advisor

**Sam Garetson**, MT GEAR UP Program Manager

**Carla Guarisco**, METS Pre-College Advisor

**Rory Haugen**, METS Pre-College Advisor

**Angela King**, College Access Manager

**Virginia Knerr**, METS Pre-College Advisor

**Maria Lillrose**, College Access Senior Manager

**Richard Mittens**, METS Pre-College Advisor

**Karen Wilson**, MT GEAR UP School Grant Manager

**Kim Wombolt**, METS Pre-College Advisor