

**2016 Governor's Tribal Relations Report—Agency Narrative Reporting Form
(for the reporting period July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016)**

1. SUBMISSION DATE: August 3rd, 2016
2. STATE AGENCY/DIVISION/PROGRAM: Montana State University Northern
3. NARRATIVE COORDINATOR NAME: Cristina Estrada-Underwood
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4. ACTIVITY NAME (name electronic file with this name): MSUN 2016 Tribal Relations Report
5. PROGRAM STAFF NAME: _____ PHONE/EMAIL: _____

6. Select the Tribe (s) Involved
 - (X) All
 - () Blackfeet
 - () Chippewa Cree
 - () Confederated Salish & Kootenai
 - () Crow
 - () Fort Belknap
 - () Fort Peck
 - () Little Shell
 - () Northern Cheyenne

7. Please specify when this state-tribal activity started and if it is ongoing or finalized
 - (X) Started before FY 2015
 - (X) Ongoing
 - (X) Started during FY 2015
 - () Completed/finalized during FY 2015

8. **In 1-2 paragraphs, describe the purpose of the activity, its significance, major accomplishments, and overall impact. Please include a brief description of the state program and its contribution to the activity, and include timelines, cost, location, other partners, etc. Make sure to spell out acronyms. Acknowledge the source if the information/story was written by an entity outside of state government.**

9.
 - **Welcome and Welcome Back Native American Students Feed**
The Office of Diversity Awareness and Multicultural Programs (ODAMP), Student Central, and the American Indian club, the Sweetgrass Society, sponsored a feed to receive Native students. All family members were invited to attend.

 - **Outreach to the Havre Public Schools During American Indian Heritage Day**
Approximately 200 children from the Lincoln McKinley School visited MSUN to learn about the significance of the tipi for the Northern Indian plains nations. The conversations took place inside the tipi that was raised for the observance. Students also had the opportunity to visit the Louis and Antoinette Hagner Museum of the Northern Plains Indians and played traditional Indian games.

- **Art Show during American Indian Heritage Month**
 In the month of November, artists from different reservations presented their pieces along with a panel discussion of Native-theme work. Donavan Archambault, from Fort Belknap, presented his hand crafted pipes; John Murie, from Rocky Boy's, and Don Greytak their paintings; and Bara Buffalo Hide from Fort Belknap her beadwork. They all abounded on their personal journey as artists and the intrinsic significance of art in the lives of Native peoples.
- **Partnership with Native Americans (PWNA) Emergency Funding**
 Partnership with Native Americans (PWNA) granted \$12,000 to MSUN to increase its ability to retain Native American students who may be at risk out of school due to unforeseen financial emergencies related to safety or health, personal and family emergencies, and in general drop-out prevention. There is eligibility criteria and since volunteerism and giving back to the community are key values at PWNA, students who receive emergency help are asked to volunteer in an activity related to Native American affairs.
- **Little River Institute and Sweetgrass Society**
 In the fall of 2015, Montana State University Northern's Extended University was awarded a five-year, \$1.9 million grant through the Native American Serving Nontribal Institutions (NASNTI) Program of the U.S. Department of Education. The grant is intended to improve the retention and completion rates of American Indian students in higher education. As part of this grant, the Little River Institute was created in January 2016 to serve as a center of tutoring, mentoring, and support for American Indian students at MSU Northern, as well as a source of culturally responsive professional development for MSU Northern faculty and staff. In addition, the Little River Institute also serves as the gathering space or "home" on MSUN's campus for the Sweetgrass Society, while the Little River Institute Program Director also serves as a Co-Advisor to the Sweetgrass Society.
- **Little River Institute Indigenous Education Lecture Series**
 The Little River Institute on the campus of MSU Northern was pleased to host Dr. Donald Pepion, Ed.D. on March 22, 2016 to share his extensive knowledge, experience, and research in the field of American Indian student retention. Dr. Pepion is a college professor at New Mexico State University where he teaches Native American Studies courses in the Anthropology Department. The presentation was the first in a series of quarterly lectures hosted by the Little River Institute featuring recognized experts in the area of Indigenous education. Over 100 MSUN administration, staff, faculty, students and community members attended Dr. Pepion's presentations, which included strategies for implementing strength-based advising, implementing Indigenous worldviews into institutional practices, in addition to data and findings from his own American Indian student retention research at New Mexico State University.

- **First Annual Little River Institute Indigenous Education Conference**

On April 28th and 29th, 2016 the Little River Institute sponsored the First Annual Indigenous Education Conference on the campus of MSUN. The themes of the inaugural conference were:

- 1) Integration of Montana’s Indian Education for All Act into the secondary and post-secondary curriculum;
- 2) Introducing the Little River Institute;
- 3) Building cultural understanding.

The conference was attended by 233 individuals including MSUN administration, faculty, and staff, Tribal College faculty and students (from Fort Peck Community College, Aaniiih Nakoda College, Stone Child College, Blackfeet Community College, and Salish Kootenai College), and staff from Government Agencies including the Montana Office of Public Instruction, Montana Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, a Montana District Court Judge, Montana Juvenile Probation Officers, and Tribal Government employees. The keynote speakers of the conference included Denise Juneau (Mandan Hidatsa), Superintendent of the Montana Office of Public Instruction; Dr. Cassandra Manuelito-Kerkvliet (Navajo), a former Tribal College President; Mandy Smoker Broaddus (Assiniboine and Sioux), Director of Indian Education at the Montana Office of Public Instruction; Dr. Pearl Yellowman (Navajo) whose dissertation focused on the contributing factors of the achievement gap for Native American Students; Mike Jetty (Spirit Lake Dakota), Indian Education Specialist with the Montana Office of Public Instruction; and Angela McLean, Director of American Indian and Minority Student Achievement with the Montana Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education. Terry Brockie (Aaniiih), the first American Indian elected as the Blaine County Superintendent of Schools and Aaniiih Language instructor, was the Master of Ceremonies. In addition, Crow hip-hop artist and fancy dancer, Christian “Supaman” Takes the Gun Parrish, gave an inspirational performance.

The conference outcomes included:

- 1) Strengthening of relationships between MSUN and regional Tribal Colleges (Fort Peck Community College, Aaniiih Nakoda College, Stone Child College, Blackfeet Community College, and Salish Kootenai College);
- 2) Strengthening of relationships between MSUN and regional high schools (Rocky Boy High School, Box Elder High School, Havre High School, Harlem High School, Hays/Lodgepole High School);
- 3) Breakout sessions provided an opportunity for students and faculty from all schools in attendance to present their recent work relevant to American Indian students and communities, which in turn provided an opportunity for MSUN faculty and staff to learn about the work at Tribal Colleges and area high schools;
- 4) MSUN faculty designed and presented curriculum integrating the principles and values.

- **Little River Institute Outreach**

Little River Institute staff and students have visited the following schools and community entities to collaborate in serving students:

Chippewa Cree Tribal Council
NorthCentral Montana Talent Search (Fort Belknap TRiO)
Hays/Lodgepole High School
Harlem High School
Aaniiih Nakoda College
Stone Child College

- **40th Annual Sweetgrass Society Powwow at MSUN**

On April 29th and 30th, 2016 the MSUN Sweetgrass Society, American Indian student club, hosted the 40th Annual Sweetgrass Society Powwow in the Armory Gymnasium. The Powwow was well attended with dancers, singers, and drum groups from across the state of Montana and Canada. In addition, several local residents as well as administration, staff, and faculty from MSUN were able to experience the only annual Powwow hosted in the Havre community. The Sweetgrass Society Powwow is an important event for the MSUN campus continuing to build positive relationships with neighboring tribal communities.

- **Native American Studies**

This year Native American Studies has been working with two groups, *Indian Peoples Action* to promote awareness of Indigenous environmental issues and activism and also in raising awareness of racial profiling and incarceration rates of Native Americans in Montana (7% of the state population, 34% of the prison population) and *The Indigenous Food Sovereignty Coalition* to raise awareness of tribal food deserts and food sovereignty projects.

This Department has also collaborated with the Havre School's District IEFA officer in promoting awareness of Indigenous cultures and issues through the monthly Indigenous Movie Nights.

- **Tribal Transfer Day**

On April 1st 2016, students from Blackfeet Community College, Stone Child College, Fort Peck Community College, and Aaniiih Nakoda College spent a day at the Northern campus getting information about the programs and services. This was the second year and built on the experience gained last year. The objective of Tribal Transfer Day is to smooth out the transition of students from these colleges into the culture of a four-year institution.

The Department of Nursing anticipated working with 18 students who were interested in Nursing, however only six (6) students actually toured the department. The six (6) students had experiential activities related to being a nursing student who was preparing to be a graduate nurse.

- **North Central Talent Search Visit to MSUN**

On May 12th, the Office of Admissions and Recruiting, the Little River Institute, and the College of Technical Sciences sponsored the visit of 50 students from Box Elder and Harlem. While visiting, they took a campus tour and participated in a hands-on activity at the Applied

Technology Center (ATC) Lab involving testing chassis dyno. They also received information about Dual Enrollment and Big Sky Pathways opportunities.

- **Havre was the Hometown Humanities Montana Town during 2015-2016**
Thanks to a grant received by Humanities Montana, the town of Havre was able to book for free for an entire year a variety of speakers. In the case of Native American speakers, MSUN was visited by Ruthann Knudson, who talked about the current status of Montana Indians and their nation's context; Richard Ellis talked about the history of Native Americans in film; and Kae Cheatham, talked about life in Montana before the horse. This grant was written by the MSUN, ODAMP and the Havre Public School Office, IEFA.
Additionally, the Chancellor's Lecture Series and Native American Studies sponsored George Price's presentation about Native American activism on climate change issues.
- **TAACCCT 3, Fort Peck Polycom System, Diesel Program**
Thanks to funding from the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) Grant Program, Gear Up, focused on trades, students at Fort Peck Community College since Fall 2015 have been able to take classes between the MSUN campus and Fort Peck Community College and gain credits to complete a Certificate of Applied Science (CAS) as well as the first year for the AAS or BS degree. This collaboration has been very successful, since there is a Northern instructor based in Wolf Point using the facility and broadcasting to MSUN in Havre. Students travel to MSUN to do their lab classes and test their level of comfort in an environment out of their community to potentially start the transition to Northern.
- **TAACCCT 4, Stone Child College, Pathways for Seamless Workforce Certificates and Programs in Allied Health**
Thanks to funding from the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) Grant Program, Montana Health Care, focused on health professions, collaborative meetings between Montana State University Northern and Stone Child College are taking place. In year one of the grant, teams assessed the needs and ways of articulating both colleges' programs. The areas of interest are Allied Health/ Health Science and Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

The Director of the Department of Nursing and the EMS Training Coordinator worked with Stone Child College to establish a Memorandum of Agreement to offer a certificate program in EMS. The EMS Training Coordinator offered an EMS Certificate Course during Summer 2016 (May 23 through June 22, 2016).
- **Transition of Allied Aaniiih Nakoda College students into the MSU-N Nursing Program**
The Director of Nursing and the Dean of College, Education, Arts, Sciences, and Nursing (CEASN) had monthly meetings with Aaniiih Nakoda College administration in order to smooth out the transition of these students into nursing majors.

- **State wide Nursing Meetings**

Monthly meetings to assess the needs of all nursing schools in the state (including Blackfeet Community College and Salish Kootenai College) to coordinate supporting efforts to conduct needs assessments and in the future potentially share clinical sites.

The Director of Nursing and TAACCCT-4 team members (Department of Nursing staff and faculty) actively participated in the State-wide Diversity Committee, plus participated in the Native American Subcommittee.

- **Collaboration in Aaniiih Nakoda in the Establishment of their Nursing Program.**

The Director of the Department of Nursing provided a letter of support to Montana Board of Nursing for the establishment of ASN Nursing Program at ANC.

The Director of Nursing also established preliminary coordination meetings with Northern Montana Medical Health Center, Clinics, and Long Term Care related to clinical experiences for the nursing students.

- ***The Teacher of Native Nations Project, Fort Peck Teacher Training Program***

This is a memorandum of understanding between Fort Peck Community College and MSUN to prepare American Indian Teachers to serve their reservations. Classes are delivered in a variety of blended formats to better meet students' needs: polycom, face-to-face, and online. Three students will be finishing their Bachelor's in Elementary Education with a minor in reading in Fall 2017, and these students have had the opportunity to do their practicums in their communities. This collaboration has proven successful and MSUN would like to continue it permanently. Although no formal agreement or partnership exists between Aaniiih Nakoda College and MSUN, program managers of the teacher training programs from both of these institutions maintain frequent communication and mutual support since some students from Aaniiih Nakoda College take classes at MSUN.

- **Box Elder High School Robotics, the Box Elder Bots**

This is a project between MSUN's Advanced Fuels Center and Box Elder High School. It was led by Alexandra Jones during her time as an AmeriCorps State Service Member through the Energy Corps program at MSUN's Advanced Fuels Center. It consisted of building a VEX Robot for the *Nothing But Net Challenge* and competing in the Montana State Technology Student Association Conference in Billings early last April. It was jointly funded by the Advanced Fuels Center and Chippewa Cree Cultural Preservation Department. The venture was so well received by the students and community that it is transitioning from an extracurricular activity to a class.

- **8th Annual TechNoXpo (Technology-Knowledge-Exposition)**

This event is an introduction to career opportunities in technical fields and university programs that prepare students for them. The objective of TechNoXpo is to offer a chance to high school students to participate in different presentations and demonstrations that showcase technologies that are used in technical fields. All high schools in the Hi-line area

were invited to participate. During the 2016 edition students from Harlem and Wolf Point visited the Northern campus.

The Department of Nursing anticipated working with 30 plus students who were interested in careers in Nursing, EMS, and Phlebotomy. The students not only toured the department, but were provided the opportunity to have experiential activities related to being the first responder at the simulated scene of an automobile accident, transfer the injured patient to a simulated emergency room to provide care, draw blood work, and prepare the student for admission to the simulated hospitals. The students were able to experience various roles in healthcare and see how an interdisciplinary team works together. All students were engaged and excited about the field of health care.

10. Are there photographs to support the narrative? (X) Yes () No



Photo File Name: Box Elder High School Robotics

Photo Caption: “The Box Elder Bots” during one of their regular sessions. Alexcia Eaglemen, from left, Carson Walksoverice and Chance LaMere, along with Alex Jones, a member of the AmeriCorps Energy Corps program serving at MSUN.

Location: Box Elder High School

Date: April 7, 2016

Photo Credit: Alex Ross, Havre Daily News.



Photo File Name: Tribal Transfer Day 2016
Photo Caption: Sweetgrass Society panel and attendees.
Location: MSUN
Dates: April 1st, 2016
Photo Credit: Cristina Estrada-Underwood (ODAMP)



Photo File Name: Little River Institute Indigenous Education Lecture Series.
Photo Caption: Dr. Donald Pepion, college professor at New Mexico State University, presents his research findings on American Indian student retention
Location: MSUN
Dates: March 22, 2016
Photo Credit: Jim Potter



Photo File Name: First Annual Little River Institute Indigenous Education Conference
Photo Caption: Stone Child College students present their research entitled “Promoting Resilience in Stone Child College students using a Culturally Relevant Curriculum”
Location: MSUN
Dates: April 29, 2016
Photo Credit: Samantha Clawson



Photo File Name: First Annual Little River Institute Indigenous Education Conference
Photo Caption: Aaniiih Nakoda College student Kaye Brown presents her research to MSUN Nursing faculty Brigit Hemmer while Dr. Mary Pappas of the MSU-Northern Nursing Department and LaVerne Parker, Stone Child College Nursing faculty engage in conversation.
Location: MSUN
Dates: April 28 and 29, 2016
Photo Credit: Samantha Clawson