

**2018 GOVERNOR'S TRIBAL RELATIONS REPORT – AGENCY NARRATIVE REPORTING FORM  
(FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD JULY 1, 2017 - JUNE 30, 2018)**

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**Purpose: The State-Tribal Relations Report features the State's cooperative work with tribes in support of the Governor's vision for greater economic development opportunities, quality health care and education programs, and improving the effectiveness of governmental operations and services.**

1. SUBMISSION DATE: May 28, 2018
2. STATE AGENCY/DIVISION/PROGRAM: **Helena College**
3. NARRATIVE COORDINATOR NAME: **Dr. Patrick Turner**
4. PHONE/EMAIL: 406-447-6937
  
5. ACTIVITY NAME Native American Pop-up Museum
6. PROGRAM STAFF NAME: Diversity Committee – Robyn Kiesling
7. PHONE/EMAIL: 406-447-6900; Robyn.Kiesling@helenacollege.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 2018 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Started during FY 2018  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing/Long-Term      | <input type="checkbox"/> Completed/finalized during FY 2018 |

*In the next sections, please make sure to spell out acronyms and acknowledge the source when the materials (text/data/photographs) were provided by 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 Helena College Diversity Committee in coordination with staff and faculty created a project entitled, **Native Montana: A Pop Up Museum**. The project not only included a dedicated showcase to honor and celebrate the robust history of Native Americans, but also entailed an engaging and provocative conversation/lecture about the legacy and challenges facing the preservation of the oratorical, linguistics, and written form of the native tongue. This pop up museum was displayed and open to public from Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup> to Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. The exhibit showcased historical photos, art, artifacts, and brief narratives detailing the historical nature of each item. The exhibit was arranged in the main entrance hall of the Donaldson Campus of Helena College at 1115 North Roberts Street in Helena. The museum was a collaborative effort between Helena College, Montana Historical Society, Helena Indian Alliance, Office of Public Instruction, and the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education. The museum was also supported by Humanities Montana and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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Additionally, Helena College sponsored a community lecture and dialogue entitled, **Native Language in the 21st Century**. The presentation was moderated by Laura Ferguson, Native American Studies faculty at Helena College and Associate Editor at the Montana Historical Society. The five guest panelists, representing several tribes from around Montana, spoke passionately about the challenges encountered their efforts to preserve, learn, teach, and pass their native language on to the next generation. Also, each panelist shared personal stories and background which not only put the discussion in a contextual framework but gave voice to the human experience which is often overlooked. The scholars further described the implications and impact this issue has on the social, economic, educational, historical, and racial construct of the Montana local and national community.

Guest speakers representing different tribes in Montana:

- Dr. Richard Littlebear, Chief Dull Knife
- Leo Bird, Blackfeet Community College
- Melanie Sandoval, One Fire School, Arlee
- Jill Mackin, Ojibwe



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11. In 1-2 paragraphs, describe any new rule, policy or law related to your program that impact state-tribal relations, Indian people and tribal communities.

*No new rules, policy or law was constructed that was connected to the projects.*

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.

Unfortunately, no noteworthy data was collected, as this was the first time both projects were conducted. Hopefully in the future, the college can design strategies to collect data (i.e. qualitative and quantitative) from participants (i.e. panelist, community guest, and college community) to track and analyze the impact and/or influence of the initiatives on the campus and community at large. In doing so Helena College can improve and possibly expand on existing projects and services.

13. Are there photographs to support the narrative? ( x ) Yes ( ) No

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*Please submit photographs in JPEG format, in high resolution (300 DPI). Please provide below the file name, caption and credit for each photograph.*

Photo File Name: **Tribal Expert Panelist**

Photo Caption (include the name of the event/persons, location, and date): Helena College displayed a Native American Pop Up Museum in the main entrance hall of the Helena College Donaldson Campus from November 9-December 15, 2017, in collaboration with the Montana Historical Society, the Helena Indian Alliance, the Office of Public Instruction, and the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education and with the support of Humanities Montana and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Photo Credit: Barbara McAlmond

Photo File Name: **Display Showcase of Artifacts**

Photo Caption (include the name of the event/persons, location, and date): Laura Ferguson, Native American Studies faculty at Helena College and Associate Editor at the Montana Historical Society, moderates a panel entitled *Native Language in the 21st Century* and featuring Dr. Richard Littlebear, Leo Bird, Melanie Sandoval, and Jill Mackin. This event was held in the Helena College Donaldson Campus Student Center on November 9, 2018 and was open to the community.

Photo Credit: Barbara McAlmond

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

The report is a good start to documenting the efforts of the Montana University System and its colleges/universities commitment to educational access and equity for Native Americans. What will be critical to these efforts toward educational accessibility, persistence, retention, and graduation of this population of students is on-going dialogue about diversity and inclusivity. It would be beneficial to have a "Diversity and Inclusion" conference that includes both sectors of colleges and universities (i.e. Traditional and Tribal) to discuss ways to collaborate and build partnerships. This type of report could generate important themes (e.g. challenges, opportunities, impediments to success, etc.) that emerge during these meaningful discussions, thereby forming rich and robust data that can be disseminated throughout the university system. Also, colleges would learn from each other best practices in creating an environment of community and belonging that embrace all cultures, race, and ethnicity.