

# MontanaTech

June 4, 2018

Angela McLean

Director of American Indian / Minority Achievement and K-12 Partnerships  
Montana University System  
2500 E. Broadway Street  
P.O. Box 203201  
Helena, Montana 59620-3201

Dear Mrs. McLean,

Attached please find the Montana Tech Tribal Relations Report for inclusion in OCHE's report to the Governor's Office. In accordance with the reporting guidelines, the report covers activities from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018 with brief project descriptions and pictures provided for Montana Tech's;

- Support of the Montana Tribal College Fairs
- Sloan Indigenous Graduate Partnership (SIGP)
- Faculty professional development to enhance mentoring of Native American students in Research and Graduate School (PNW COSMOS)
- Acquisition of a confocal microscope to enhance biological and materials research
- Fellows in Research Program

Respectfully,



Amy Verlanic  
Executive Director  
Institute for Educational Opportunities

CC: Doug Abbott, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs  
Bev Hartline, Vice Chancellor for Research and Dean of the Graduate School



**2018 GOVERNOR’S TRIBAL RELATIONS REPORT – AGENCY NARRATIVE REPORTING FORM  
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Tribal College Fairs. Otherwise, a fair was held at each of the other tribal colleges in Montana. More information about last year’s fair circuit, including some pictures, can be found at <http://www.montanatribalcolleges.org/> and clicking the “Fairs” tab.

9. 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.
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.  
Each year Montana Tech must pay a registration fee to recruit in the tribal college fair circuit. Last year the fee for the six tribal college fairs was \$400.00, and travel costs were around \$1100. This was less than usual because our representative had a family emergency and had to return home early. Unfortunately, for the annual \$1500 – \$2300 investment, Montana Tech has not yielded maybe but one or two traceable students, in all of our nine years, to attend Montana Tech as a result of these fairs. But all benefits are not measured in student yield. Montana Tech has been proud to help spread the word about the benefits of obtaining a Bachelor’s degree. Just by being there, at every fair, students get to learn about options that prior to the fair they may never had been aware existed. The Tribal College Fairs are a collaborative effort and this team effort allows the students to see what great things are available. This event also helps students learn about what is necessary to continue on in college by training them in the proper steps to take to achieve their higher education goals. Our being there also just shows we care and we will continue to work to build the relationships between Montana Tech and Tribal College students and professionals that is paramount to long term success. With that said, due to ever increasing budget restraints, the Montana Tech Recruitment Office will be re-evaluating our participation in any future tribal college fair circuits, and may need to reduce or eliminate participation in the MPSEOC Montana Tribal College Fairs.

11. Are there photographs to support the narrative? ( X ) Yes ( ) No  
I do not have access to the original photo files. These photos are taken by fair participants and posted. Please contact Amy Leary, MPSEOC Executive Director, for photo rights, if you decide to use them. You may view them on the Montana Tribal Colleges Team webpage <http://www.montanatribalcolleges.org/> under the “Fairs” tab and scroll down to “Pictures from the Fairs.” Nearly all of the photos are off of cell phones during the events, so there may not be any high resolution photos. Amy can be reached at [Amy.Leary@MontanaColleges.com](mailto:Amy.Leary@MontanaColleges.com) or (406) 531-3531  
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?

**2018 GOVERNOR'S TRIBAL RELATIONS REPORT – AGENCY NARRATIVE REPORTING FORM  
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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.**

12. SUBMISSION DATE: May 21, 2018

13. STATE AGENCY/DIVISION/PROGRAM: Montana Tech

14. NARRATIVE COORDINATOR NAME: Amy Verlanic      PHONE/EMAIL

15. ACTIVITY NAME (*use acronym or key words for the electronic file name*): Sloan Indigenous Graduate Partnership

16. PROGRAM STAFF NAME: Beverly K. Hartline, Ph.D.      PHONE/EMAIL:

17. 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                           |  |

18. Please specify when this state-tribal activity started and if it is ongoing or finalized.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Started before FY 2018       | <input type="checkbox"/> Started during FY 2018             |
| <input checked="" 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.*

19. 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 Sloan Indigenous Graduate Partnership (SIGP) has been active at Montana Tech since ~2004. Its purpose is to attract and support (mentoring and financial) Native Americans to complete graduate degrees (M.S. or Ph.D.) in Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics (STEM). During FY 2018, Montana Tech admitted two new SIGP MS students (both Montanans) and they are making excellent progress toward thesis-based MS degrees in Environmental Engineering and Industrial Hygiene. Both attended the American Indian Science and Engineering Society's (AISES) annual conference in Denver in September 2017—one applying for and receiving a travel scholarship, the other supported by Sloan funding. Two previous SIGP scholars have completed all degree requirements, except thesis, which they are planning to submit and defend in Summer 2018 (probably in July). Montana Tech provides from the graduate school budget or research grants a research assistantship or teaching assistantship and tuition waiver for each SIGP student. Sloan funding provides an additional stipend of \$20,000 over the duration of the MS program. Every three years, one SIGP student must be supported financially fully by Montana Tech. University of Montana and Montana State University also host SIGP students. Annually, the students and program directors on the three campuses gather in a professional development retreat funded by the Sloan Foundation. Other SIGP partners are Purdue University, University of Arizona, and University of Alaska,*

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20. 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.

N/A

21. 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.

*The alumni frequently return to their tribal communities in responsible positions.*

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

***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: Taymee Presenting at Sloan MT gathering April 2018.jpg

Photo Caption (include the name of the event/persons, location, and date): Taymee Brandon Presenting MS Research at SIGP Montana Retreat. April 7, 2018.

Photo Credit: Bev Hartline, Montana Tech



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23. SUBMISSION DATE: 05/21/2018

24. STATE AGENCY/DIVISION/PROGRAM: MONTANA TECH

25. NARRATIVE COORDINATOR NAME: Amy Verlanic      PHONE/EMAIL

26. ACTIVITY NAME (*use acronym or key words for the electronic file name*): PNW COSMOS

27. PROGRAM STAFF NAME: Beverly Hartline      PHONE/EMAIL: x4456

28. 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                           |  |

29. Please specify when this state-tribal activity started and if it is ongoing or finalized.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Started before FY 2018 | <input type="checkbox"/> Started during FY 2018             |
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*The PNW COSMOS Alliance is funded by the National Science Foundation through Washington State University, University of Idaho, University of Montana, and Montana State University. Its purpose is to perform research and develop transformative innovations that improve the numbers and success of Native American students that enter and complete graduate programs (MS and PhD) in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields. It started in 2014 and ends in 2019. Montana Tech is a subawardee to the University of Montana. Montana Tech faculty and students have participated in the Indigenous Mentoring Program, the Indigenous Knowledge Field Camp, the mentoring and networking, and have attended annual gatherings of the alliance. In 2018, one Montana Tech graduate student and the campus director for PNW-COSMOS attended the national Forum in March for all NSF grants under this program. In FY2018 there were three graduate student participants and one junior who is being mentored to consider graduate school. Four faculty members were active PNW COSMOS mentors in FY2018. Two of the graduate students attended the PNW COSMOS Summit (along with the campus director). Two graduate students attended the national American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) meeting in Denver in September. Other partners in PNW COSMOS are Salish Kootenai College, Northwest Indian College, and Heritage University. Through PNW-COSMOS Montana Tech has recruited a new MS student, who will be starting his program in August. The NSF grant ends in 2019.*

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31. 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.

N/A

32. 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.

33. Are there photographs to support the narrative? ( ) Yes ( X ) No  
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Photo Caption (include the name of the event/persons, location, and date):

Photo Credit:

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

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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.**

35. SUBMISSION DATE: June 1, 2018

36. STATE AGENCY/DIVISION/PROGRAM:

37. NARRATIVE COORDINATOR NAME: PHONE/EMAIL

38. ACTIVITY NAME *(use acronym or key words for the electronic file name)*:

Submission of a proposal to the National Science Foundation for a Major Research Instrument (MRI). The proposal was titled, “Acquisition of a confocal microscope to enhance biological and materials research at Montana Tech,” and it is still pending.

39. PROGRAM STAFF NAME: Katherine R. Zodrow PHONE/EMAIL: [kzodrow@mtech.edu](mailto:kzodrow@mtech.edu)

40. Select Tribe(s) Involved:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Confederated Salish & Kootenai | <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Cheyenne |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crow                                      |  |

41. Please specify when this state-tribal activity started and if it is ongoing or finalized.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing/Long-Term      | <input type="checkbox"/> Completed/finalized during FY 2018 |

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This proposal included members at Montana Tech, University of Montana Western, and Salish Kootenai College (SKC). Two faculty members in Life Sciences, Wendy Westbroek and Christina Rush, were included as minor users of the proposed instrument, and they would use the microscope for their projects, “The Impact of Heavy Metals on Insulin-Mediated Glucose Uptake and Exosome-Mediated Tumorigenesis” and “The Use of Hantavirus-like Particles in Human Lung Cells to Study Hantavirus: A Cell Model and Identification of Mercury-Methylating Bacteria in Flathead Lake.” Additionally, Westbroek would use the microscope in a lecture for her Molecular and Cellular Biology class.

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44. 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.

45. Are there photographs to support the narrative? ( ) Yes ( x ) No  
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Photo Caption (include the name of the event/persons, location, and date):

Photo Credit:

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46. SUBMISSION DATE: June 1, 2018

47. STATE AGENCY/DIVISION/PROGRAM: Montana Tech

48. NARRATIVE COORDINATOR NAME: Amy Verlanic                      PHONE/EMAIL

49. ACTIVITY NAME (*use acronym or key words for the electronic file name*): Fellows in Research Program

50. PROGRAM STAFF NAME:        Amy L. Verlanic                      PHONE/EMAIL: 406.496.4289  
   averlanic@mtech.edu

51. 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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| <input type="checkbox"/> Crow                           |  |

52. Please specify when this state-tribal activity started and if it is ongoing or finalized.

- |   |   |
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The Army Educational Outreach Program (AEOP) funded the synergizing of Montana Tech's resources to implement a Fellowships in Research program. The program has four key components;

- (1) Promoting the AEOP portfolio of programs and distributing AEOP materials to the captive audiences of over 200 underrepresented high school students with whom Montana Tech has existing relationships.
- (2) Creating an after-school STEM camp for Native American high school students at the North American Indian Alliance, where undergraduate and graduate students serve as role models increasing students' academic achievements and encouraging their independent research efforts.
- (3) Hosting a weekend Research Academy in the late September for ten pre-identified low-income first-generation high school students from Butte High. Curriculum includes basic research concepts such as data collection techniques, technical writing, lab safety, and the scientific method. The fellows are then provided intense support throughout the academic year as they conduct their own

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research project by having both a Butte High teacher and classroom devoted to be their in-school research mentor and a graduate/or PhD student as their on-campus mentor. Students are expected to enter their research into the Intermountain Junior Science and Humanities Symposium in February.

(4) Conducting a Summer Research Academy where 24 additional fellows are provided two weeks on campus with extensive time devoted to research fundamentals and launching their independent research projects. This second cohort of students will enter their research in the 2018 IJSH.

54. 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.

N/A

55. 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.

We currently have 24 Native American high school students representing numerous tribes in Montana registered to attend the summer research academy.

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

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Photo File Name:

Photo Caption (include the name of the event/persons, location, and date):

Photo Credit:

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