

**MSU-NORTHERN**  
**MONTANA COLLEGE ACCESS CHALLENGE GRANT**  
**2013-14 - YEAR 2 PROPOSAL**

Goal 1:

Continue to increase the financial literacy of the entire student body by:

- Disseminating the MSU-Northern budgeting worksheet and Dollars and Sense workbooks with all financial aid award letters.
- Conducting a series of financial literacy workshops on campus targeting freshman and sophomores. We will encourage students to bring their spouse/family members and will provide daycare and a meal as incentive to participate in the workshop series.

Goal 2:

Continue to increase underrepresented and minority knowledge of Montana postsecondary education financial options by providing targeted financial literacy seminars for student and families within the K-12 system on the four surrounding reservations: Fort Peck, Fort Belknap, Rocky Boys and Blackfeet.

Goal 3:

Increase targeting of students with high loan debts and/or high SAP ratios. We will continue to send letters to students who reach one or both of these thresholds. In addition, we will have a trained staff member personally contact each student with the goal of educating them on their remaining financial aid eligibility and financial literacy components.

Goal 4:

Continue to work with tribal colleges to early identify those students who are planning to transfer to MSU-Northern (or another post-secondary institution). Students will receive additional education regarding long term effects of maximum credit limits as well as effectively utilizing student loans.

Goal 5:

To establish an electronic early-alert system to more effectively identify at-risk students. We are currently utilizing an informal system that requires faculty responding to e-mail requests from Financial Aid and the Advising Center. An electronic early-alert system would make it less cumbersome on faculty to report student's non-attendance and/or poor academic performance. Increased reporting will allow student success team members to proactively provide support and follow-up with the students with the intent of increasing the overall success rate of students.

## BUDGET

Personnel:

Administrative staff to coordinate grant activities (0.25 FTE) - Salary & Benefits	\$12,260
Student Worker wages for Financial Aid mailings	\$ 1,500

Postage:

Additional postage for Financial Aid mailings (2.30 per item * 1,200)	\$ 2,760
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Travel:

Two visits to each tribal college (1,650 miles @ .25 per mile with state car)	\$ 450
MSU-Northern motor pool car (2 trips * 4 colleges * \$20/day)	\$ 160

Publications:

Reprinting of Budget Worksheet	\$ 700
Materials for Financial Literacy Workshop Series	\$ 350

Training:

Training materials and supplies for Recruiters, Advisors and Admin Staff	\$ 820
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Other Expenses:

Refreshments for Financial Literacy Workshop Series	\$ 500
Daycare for Financial Literacy Workshop Series	<u>\$ 500</u>

**TOTAL:** **\$20,000**