

Workforce Development & Two Year Education (BIEN/OTO)

The budget includes \$1 million of biennial one-time-only (OTO) general fund in the 2015 biennium to invest in two-year education across Montana. These funds are intended to be used as seed dollars to expand both dual enrollment and workforce training opportunities and increase access and affordability to Montana's two year schools. In addition, these funds will ensure ease of transferability from two year to four year degree seekers.

Dual Enrollment:

Develop a competitive grant process with MUS campuses to create incentives to expand dual enrollment opportunities through RFP process to create additional concurrent enrollment opportunities in area high schools: **\$345K**

- ❖ Expansion of concurrent enrollment opportunities with partnering secondary schools;
- ❖ Development of dual enrollment opportunities which align with Montana's Carl D. Perkins Big Sky Pathways Program
- ❖ Preference will be given for proposals which stimulate development of dual enrollment opportunities in areas not presently served
- ❖ Preference will be given to dual enrollment opportunities that demonstrate industry credentials.

Workforce Training:

Develop a competitive grant process with MUS campuses to facilitate the development of innovative workforce training and education programs. Proposals must demonstrate evidence of industry partnerships. Proposals must demonstrate how the proposed initiative will lead to opportunities for immediate employment and workforce experience for adult learners and/or high school students which may lead to career pathways, college career ladders and stackable certifications, and opportunities for future postsecondary education. **\$300K**

- ❖ Priority for funding will be given to projects that leverage funds or resources from other sources and have the direct involvement of employer partners, and create and sustain career pathways
- ❖ Preference will be given for proposals which include dual enrollment opportunities

Transfer Opportunities:

Develop a competitive grant process with MUS campuses to address the statewide need for baccalaureate prepared workforce by increasing access opportunities to BS/BA completion through the creation of statewide AA/AS fully online transfer degrees. A single proposal must demonstrate a partnership of two or more two year campuses working together to provide a fully only online Associate to Baccalaureate pathways. **\$174K**

- ❖ Preference will be given to proposals which provide options for sharing of courses within the MUS
- ❖ Preference will be given for program proposals which award industry-recognized credentials.
- ❖ Preference will be given to proposals which incorporate innovative on-line design and delivery models (MOOCs, etc)
- ❖ Resources will be made available to the successful RFP for AA/AS to BA/BS alignment and tuning through College!NOW resources

2. College!NOW:

Bolster the MUS 2-year Education Initiative by providing funds for central services and resources; **\$181K**