

Education Design Labs



2025

Prepared by:

Dr. Angela McLean, Director American Indian and Minority Achievement & K-12 Partnerships

Panelists:

Quincie Jones, Executive Director of Career & Technical Education, GFC MSU

Leonard Hilton, Structural Welding Cohort Graduate, GFC MSU & ADF International Welder

Brian Tucker, Career Coach & Structural Welding Instructor, GFC MSU

Trevor Floerchinger, Production Manager, ADF International

Education Design Labs Phase I

- First system-wide, employer driven micro-pathway design effort
- First Tribal College as part of micro-pathway development
- Reached goal of development of targeted pathways
- Taxonomy Guide Completion to support Phase 2 work
- An evaluation (funded by the Murdoch Foundation) is currently underway



Allied Steel

Location:
Lewistown, MT

Allied Steel specializes in structural steel fabrication for projects across the western United States, including Alaska and Hawaii.

On their experience with design:

"Allied Steel's work with the Education Design Lab and Year-to-Career has **streamlined the development** of a three-week structural welding badge with MSU-Northern.

Working together, our company and MUS are able to **more quickly develop and deploy relevant education** that not only provides Allied Steel a **pipeline of skilled workers**, but puts students quickly on a **path to a high-quality career.**"
— Jeff Southworth, President & CEO



University of Montana Western

Location:
Dillon, MT

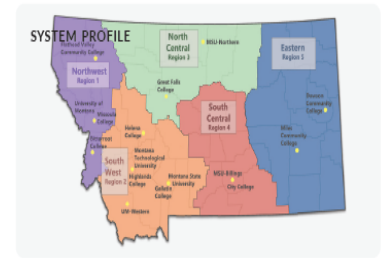
Student Body:
2,297 (2024)

College Tagline: Experience the difference.

On their experience with design:

"This past year was filled with excitement and energy, and I am completely **confident that the second year will start to showcase the outcomes** of our efforts from year one!"
— Bethanie Wharton, Program Coordinator, Workforce & Marketing, School of Outreach

"Year one was about connections. It continues to amaze me, for such a large state, that **the community is small but connected**. The connections are there and I look forward to **translating them into action in year two.**"
— Ryann Gibson, Program Manager, School of Outreach



Montana University System

Location:
Helena, MT

Under the direction of the Montana Board of Regents, the Montana Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education ("OCHE") provides strategic direction and coordinates the overall structure, function, and budget of Montana's dynamic collection of post-secondary institutions.

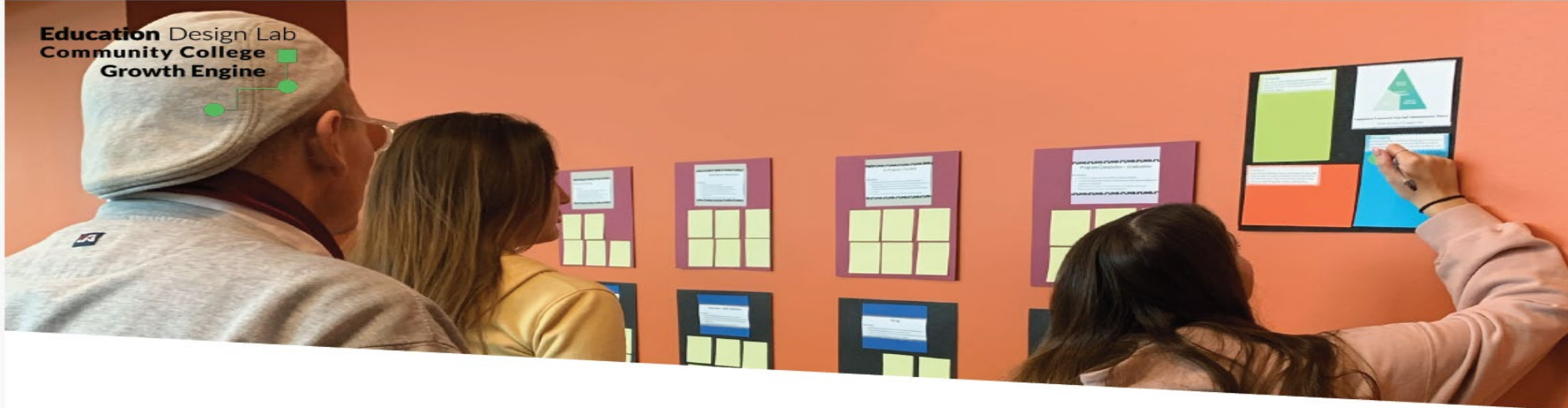
On their experience with design:

"The first year of the Education Design Labs work was transformational for the Montana University System. **Across the state, campuses partnered with employers** to design and deliver micro pathways to learners of all ages. It is exciting to see **Montana lead the nation in workforce training opportunities** that connect with our industry partners."
— Joe Thiel, Interim Deputy Commissioner, Academic, Research & Student Affairs



Education Design Labs Phase II

- Focus on Behavioral Health, Early Childhood and Trades
- Develop a Comprehensive Marketing Strategy
- Build data infrastructure that tracks and collects enrollment and completion data



Montana Year-to-Career Initiative

Program Impact Panel



Welder

Career Advancement + Stackability: This program is intended to stack into the associates of welding technology program.

Length of Program: 7 weeks in the evening M-Th from 5-9:30PM
This course is expertly crafted to meet local workforce demands. Dive into hands-on training, earn a certificate, interview with industry partners, and prepare for 2F & 2G welding qualifications.

Employer Partner(s): ADF International Inc.

Salary: \$48,526



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