Montana Board of Regents

ACADEMIC PROPOSAL REQUEST FORM

November 2026

ITEM 227-1501-R1126

Request to retitle the Center for Remediation and Assessment to the Center for Environmental Solutions

Institution: **Montana Technological University** CIP Code: **N/A**

Program/Center/Institute Title: **Center for Environmental Solutions**

Includes (please specify below): Face-to-face Offering: _____ Online Offering: _____ Blended Offering: _____

Options: _____

Proposal Summary [360 words maximum]

What: We propose to re-title the existing Center for Remediation and Assessment (CERA) to the Center for Environmental Solutions (CES), repositioning it as an interdisciplinary research and engagement unit within Montana Tech's Research Office. CES will serve as a single, recognizable point of entry for faculty, students, government agencies, industry, schools, nonprofits, and communities seeking practical environmental solutions. It will integrate the University's strengths in applied environmental research and engineering, ecological restoration, water and soil systems, geochemistry, remote sensing and drone applications, STEM education, and community engagement.

Under this renewed identity, the Center for Environmental Solutions (CES) will help faculty form interdisciplinary teams, develop competitive proposals, manage partnerships, and advance work from the laboratory toward field and pilot scale. It will coordinate assets currently distributed across departments and projects, and it will incorporate Ripple's established student programs, teacher professional development, and the Summer Environmental Engineering Camp while connecting them to undergraduate and graduate research and workforce pathways. The CES will not offer coursework or confer degrees; academic departments retain full authority over curricula and credentials. Launch requires one Executive Director position paid from strategic funds and indirect cost recovery funds. Existing staff, labs, and facilities are sufficient, with no new building needed.

Why: The name change reflects a broader, more accurate scope. "Remediation and Assessment" describes only part of the Center's work, whereas "Environmental Solutions" captures the full range of applied engineering and science, ecological restoration, mine-impacted landscape expertise, field- and pilot-scale problem solving, and education and outreach that the unit now encompasses. The new name presents a clearer, more inviting entry point for the agencies, industry partners, communities, and students the Center serves.

The change also strengthens strategic and portfolio alignment. The new identity maps directly to Montana Tech's Natural Resources strategic lane of our 4-Lane Highway (while also advancing Infrastructure and Leadership/Workforce Development) and simplifies the institutional center portfolio by retiring the older environmental center designation and placing future center-level environmental activity under one current mission and leadership structure. In short, the rename modernizes the Center's identity, broadens its recognized mandate, improves proposal competitiveness, and reduces barriers for external partners.

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Resources:

ATTACHMENTS

None

Please mark the appropriate type of request and submit with any additional materials, including those listed in parentheses following the type of request. For more information pertaining to the types of requests listed below, how to complete an item request, or additional forms please visit http://mus.edu/che/arsa/academicproposals.asp.

____ A. Level I:

OCHE Notification

____ **1a. Placing a postsecondary educational program into moratorium** (Program Termination and Moratorium Form)

____ **1b. Withdrawing a postsecondary educational program from moratorium**

____ **2. Re-titling, terminating or revising a campus certificate of 29 credits or less**

____ **3. Offering an existing postsecondary educational program via distance or online delivery**

OCHE Approvals

____ **4. Re-titling an existing postsecondary educational program**

____ **5. Terminating an existing postsecondary educational program** (Program Termination and Moratorium Form)

____ **6. Consolidating existing postsecondary educational programs** (Curriculum Proposal Form)

____ **7. Establishing a new minor where there is a major or an option in a major** (Curriculum Proposal Form)

____ **8. Revising a postsecondary educational program** (Curriculum Proposal Form)

____ **9. Establishing a temporary C.A.S. or A.A.S. degree program Approval limited to 2 years**

____ **10. Withdrawing a postsecondary program from moratorium**

____ **11. Establishing a campus certificate of 29 credits or less (Curriculum Proposal Form)**

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B. Level II:

_____ **1. Establishing a new postsecondary educational program** (Curriculum Proposal and Completed Request to Plan Form)

_____ **2. Requesting Permanent authorization for a temporary C.A.S. or A.A.S degree program** (Curriculum Proposal and Completed Request to Plan Form)

_____ **3. Requesting a variation of the 120-credit baccalaureate degrees** *Exception to policy 301.11*

_____ **4. Forming, eliminating or consolidating an academic, administrative, or research unit** (Curriculum or Center/Institute Proposal and completed Request to Plan, except when eliminating or consolidating)

X **5. Re-titling an academic, administrative, or research unit**