



Alongside the MUS campuses, OCHE continues to build consistent, statewide touchpoints with the school administrators, counselors, and students who guide Montana students' postsecondary decisions — through recurring regional meetings, direct counselor communication, and coordinated alignment with the Future at Work / STARS Act initiative.

Statewide Regional Presence

The MUS is showing up consistently, in person, across the state — pairing formal presentations with open, two-way feedback from administrators and counselors on what is working in the field and where further support is needed.



SAM / MASS Meetings

MUS attends every regional meeting, encouraging counselors to join administrators for an open feedback forum.



Perkins/CTE Regional CLNA

The Perkins/CTE team hosts Comprehensive Local Needs Assessments in communities across the state.



College Fair Attendance

An expanded presence at fairs statewide positions MUS as a trusted point of contact.

Why it matters: *relationships are built face to face, not simply through a mailer. Showing up consistently, year after year, earns the trust that opens the door for follow-up — and being in all three rooms lets MUS notice overlaps and coordinate outreach across teams rather than duplicating efforts.*

Counselor Engagement

Beyond in-person meetings, the MUS keeps a steady rhythm of direct communication and shared branding, so counselors have one recognizable, trusted source for postsecondary information.



Informational Packets

Distributed each fall and branded through Apply Montana for a consistent, recognizable identity.



Conference Attendance

Active participation in counselor-facing conferences, including MSCA, MPSEOC and MASS Elevate.



Regular Communication

Ongoing updates through the MASS Roadshow and a dedicated counselor newsletter.

Future Ready Stackable Pathways

Montana's Future at Work is a \$2 million dollar grant funded by the Dennis & Phyllis Washington Foundation and administered by the Montana University System, built specifically for Montana's most rural school communities. Rather than asking rural students to travel to reach postsecondary opportunity, the grant funds local campuses directly, so the pathway comes to the student rather than the other way around.

Awarded campuses build sustainable, stackable 15-, 30-, and 60-credit “Future Ready” micro-pathways delivered within the community itself. This directly operationalizes the STARS Act (2025), which gives districts the framework and incentive to graduate students who have already earned dual credits, industry-recognized certifications, and college coursework — meaning a rural Montana senior can walk across the graduation stage already college- and career-ready.

15-Credit Pathway	30-Credit Pathway	60-Credit Pathway
 Career Jumpstart & Dual Enrollment Dual credits, general education foundations, and introductory workforce credentials give students a confidence-building start toward a credential.	 Post-Secondary Certificate Structured technical training and core college coursework result in an industry-recognized certificate earned alongside the high school diploma.	 Associate Degree Completion A comprehensive two-year degree pathway delivered locally lets students graduate high school with a full Associate Degree already in hand.

First Campus Awards

The first campus awards are already reaching 41 districts across the state:

- MCC working with 17 rural districts on healthcare and CTE pathways.
- MSU/Gallatin College working with 8 rural districts on education pathways.
- Great Falls College working with 11 rural districts on various workforce pathways.
- City College working with 8 districts on trades and general education pathways.