

August 28, 2023



Jeannie Origbo
Montana GEAR UP/MUS Team
Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Jeannie & the Montana GEAR UP/MUS Team:

We hope you had a great summer your way! It was so wonderful to have you and John at the Summer Conference with us! As we begin a new school year and match cycle, on behalf of MPSEOC, The Montana Tribal College Team, our Board of Directors, our membership, Montana high schools, counselors, and students, we would like to sincerely thank you for your partnership in support of our annual Montana Tribal College Fairs, September College Fairs, Counselor Updates, Statewide Events Calendar, Campus Counselor Trainings, Support Students Campaign, Guide Book to Higher Education, Summer Conference, Montana Gives Back - Student Community Service Support, website resources, and many more. We simply could not offer these programs and events without your team efforts, sponsorships, and partnerships.

Montana GEAR UP/MUS has been a long-standing friend, partner, and sponsor to MPSEOC, and we are forever grateful for this relationship and common mission to help students and Montana education together. Please know we are here to help in any way we can to move your efforts forward as well. Through collaboration and partnership, we are excited to start a new partnership year with you and your team! Thank you once again for your good work and wonderful service to students. It is our honor and privilege to work with you in this mission to help education and students reach their dreams. Our deepest thanks to you and your great team!

Please know we are here to help in any way we can. We are excited to continue to build this relationship in innovative ways in this new year ahead with you! We are so grateful for your all your continued support and collaboration. Our deepest thanks to you and your great team! Please let us know if we can help you in any way.

Amy M Leary
Executive Director

*On behalf of the MPSEOC Board of Directors, Montana Tribal College Team, and MPSEOC Membership - Montana Admissions and New Student Services, we sincerely thank you for partnering with us to help students and education!



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GEAR UP Documentation

Match | MPSEOC

MPSEOC

Quality Access to Higher Education

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DATE: AUGUST 28, 2023

Jeannie Origbo
Montana GEAR UP Director, OCHE / Montana University System

Dear Jeannie & the GEAR UP/MUS Team,

On behalf of MPSEOC, we would like to once again thank you for your great support and collaboration! We simply could not offer events like the Tribal College/Career Fair Circuit, Montana Tribal College Institute, College Fairs, Virtual Events, Montana Colleges Summer Conference, a new statewide Events Calendar, Support Montana Students Campaign, and the Counselor Update(s) for students, schools, and counselors without organizations and people like you. Our sincerest thank you and appreciation to you for teaming with us to help make this last year's events happen.

To do a final reporting on this last year's events and match, we have included the following information. However, please just let us know if you need anything further. Thank you again for all of your help!

- ✓ *The \$20,000 supported this year's Montana Tribal College Fair Circuit / Institute, September College Fairs, Virtual Events, Summer Conference, and the Counselor Update. On the following page you will find the breakdown of how the funds were used.*
- ✓ *The match of \$20,000 was used to cover the wages for the Montana Tribal College Fair Circuit, the September College Fairs, and the Counselor Update. However, due to our annual partnership, we have extended free attendance and participation in our annual Summer Conference, Guide To Higher Education, Statewide, Calendar of Events, Websites, Newsletters, Social Media, and more! See outlined spreadsheet.*
- ✓ **OVERALL PROMOTION AND COLLABORATION:**
 - *Montana GEAR UP encouraged and assisted GEAR UP schools to attend the college fairs. MPSEOC also did promotions of this event in the high schools and communities to try and gain extra support and awareness of these events.*
 - *MPSEOC has included a spreadsheet outline the \$20,000 of in-kind match support in the salary of the Executive Director for this project.*
 - *MPSEOC advertised and shared GEAR UP's Information in many realms: in all promotions before the fairs, in all press releases, on our montanacolleges.com (<http://montanacolleges.com/>) and montanatribalcolleges.org website @ <http://www.montanatribalcolleges.org> on all posters, signs, and handouts at the fairs, etc.*

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✓ **OVERVIEW TRIBAL COLLEGE FAIRS & Virtual Exploration Week :** (\$13,000 | in supplies, wages, and programing)

- In Spring 2023, we hosted all Tribal College Fairs in-person along with the second annual virtual Montana Tribal College Institute & Relations Day to build relations. This event alone hosted:
 - ♦ All 7 Montana Tribal College Teams
 - ♦ 150+ Education Professionals registered to attend!
 - ♦ 80+ different education Institutions represented!
 - ♦ 14 Different States & Provinces Represented (Montana, Alberta- Canada, Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, North Dakota, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, & more!)
 - ♦ 100's of great interactions, chats, resources shared, and overall steps taken toward building relationships.
- In 2023 - Each Tribal College offered a \$500 scholarship and or prize to students totaling a \$3,000 scholarship give away from all events.
- MPSEOC and the Tribal College Team have collected many pictures that were shared of this year's event on our social media channels: @montanacolleges & @ www.MontanaTribalColleges.org under the Gallery.
- MPSEOC and the Tribal College Team have created an updated website to help gather and collect fair information at www.MontanaTribalColleges.org.

✓ **OVERVIEW OF COLLEGE FAIRS:** (\$5,000 | in supplies, wages, and programing)

- In Fall 2022 – We hosted 18 in-person fairs for all 200 Montana highs schools and served over 9,000+ Montana high school seniors, juniors, and sophomores at these fall events.
- In Fall 2022 - This program reaches all Montana High Schools. All Montana Seniors, Juniors, Sophomores, Counselors, Parents, and community members are invited to attend at no cost.
- In Fall 2022 - We offered 3 Regions of fairs in Eastern, Central, and Western Montana with hosting on average about 125 different colleges, universities, military branches, businesses, and agencies overall.
- At these events, each year we give away many \$1,000 Scholarships from the fairs.
- In Fall 2022 – We work hard to help make sure counselors and schools are participating and utilizing College Application Week, FAFSA Month, Apply Montana Portal – One App, and overall MUS / GEAR UP programs and services. We share promotions via social media, direct emails, etc. as needed.

✓ **OVERVIEW OF COUNSELOR UPDATE:** (\$2,000 | in supplies, wages, and programing)

- In 2022, we team with GEAR UP/ MUS to offer in-person and virtual Counselor Updates.
- In 2022 - Each fall we host a Counselor Update to help Montana Counselors know the most important updates around the state from the colleges, universities, agencies, etc.
- In 2022 – We were back to hosting this event at 9 different sites across Montana. We also broadcast this session over Zoom and allow for virtual connection too.
- This last year we had over 200 registrations to attend this event which equals that majority of high school counselors send their counselors to this event.
- In 2022 - We hosted a breakfast and luncheon for all in-person attending counselors.
- In 2022 - We offered announcements on admissions, financial aid, academic programs, special events, OCHE, OPI, GEAR UP, Reach Higher Montana, MUS-Student Financial Services, MAYP, MDLI, AICF, and many more updates. All 25 Montana Colleges share updates. This is a free service to counselors, and there is no cost to attend. We offer Counselor Credit for this training time.
- Collaboration with College Application Week, FAFSA Month, Apply Montana, etc. promotions and reach.

Once again, we would like to sincerely thank you for your support and team help! We hope to continue to keep this relationship strong and growing to help students in the future. Please just let us know if you need anything further.



Amy M Leary
Executive Director | MPSEOC

