



MONTANA ADVISORY COUNCIL ON INDIAN EDUCATION  
ADVISORY TO THE BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION AND  
SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

**Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education  
November 10, 2021**

Agenda – Informational Session

[Zoom Link](#)

**Meeting ID** 975 6600 1307

**Password** 199846

**Dial by Telephone** +1 646 558 8656 or +1 406 444 9999

Mission: To provide for more effective and meaningful participation by Indian people in planning, implementation, and administration of relevant educational services and programs under the authority of local school boards.

- |  |            |
|--|------------|
| <b>Item 1: Call to order:</b>  | 9:00 a.m.  |
| ❖ Welcome - Jennifer Smith, Chairperson  |            |
| ❖ Roll Call  |            |
| ❖ Pledge of Allegiance   |            |
| <br>   |            |
| <b>Item 2: Approval of Minutes</b>   | 9:15 a.m.  |
| ❖ October 6, 2021 Minutes  |            |
| <br>   |            |
| <b>Item 3: Ex-Officio Reports (10 minutes each)</b>  | 9:20 a.m.  |
| ❖ Superintendent of Public Instruction – Elsie Arntzen   |            |
| ❖ Montana University System – Angela McLean  |            |
| <br>   |            |
| <b>Item 4: American Indian Education Administrative Reports (10 minutes each)</b>              | 10:00 a.m. |
| ❖ Tribal Relations and Resiliency Unit Report- Don Wetzel                                      |            |
| ❖ Indian Education for All Unit Report- Zach Hawkins   |            |
| <br>   |            |
| Break  | 10:30 a.m. |
| <br>   |            |
| <b>Item 5: Chairperson Report</b>  | 10:45 a.m. |
| <br>   |            |
| <b>Item 6: Informational Presentations</b>   | 10:55 a.m. |
| ❖ Montana Rural Teacher Project – Tricia Seifert, Montana State University                     |            |
| ❖ English Learners as it Relates to Native Students – Evelyn Paz, Office of Public Instruction |            |

**Item 7: Old Business**

11:25 a.m.

- ❖ Regalia Committee Update

**Item 7: Public comment**

11:45 a.m.

This is an opportunity for any member of the audience to bring to the attention of the Council questions or relevant comments concerning matters not on the agenda. Please note that the Council is bound by ethical practice, bylaws, and Montana statutes. The Council may not take any action on matters brought to the attention of the Council during the public comment portion of the meeting unless specific notice of that matter is included in a properly noticed agenda. Therefore, in the Open Agenda portion of the meeting, the Council will not discuss or take any action, but may refer a matter presented to a future agenda. The following criteria exist for the public comments.

- The public may not discuss items on the current agenda at this time.
- The public may only discuss matters within jurisdiction of the Council.
- No action may be taken on a matter raised during the open agenda.
- The public may not comment in a boisterous, disorderly, hostile, or aggressive manner.
- Each member of the public may address the Council once.

**Item 8: Adjournment**

noon

Times are approximate.

The meeting with the American Indian and Minority Achievement Task Force meeting is on December 8.

The next regular work meeting is January 5, 2022.



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**MACIE AGENDA  
INFORMATIONAL SESSION  
ITEM 2  
APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- ❖ Handout 2.1
  - Draft October 6, 2021 minutes



MONTANA ADVISORY COUNCIL ON INDIAN EDUCATION  
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MACIE Meeting  
October 6, 2021  
Draft Minutes

Members Present

Norma Bixby	Northern Cheyenne Tribe
Levi Black Eagle	Crow Tribe
Dugan Coburn	Urban – Great Falls
Michelle Crazy	Fort Belknap Tribe
Jason Cummins	Class 7
Jordann Forster	Montana Federation of Public Employees
Melissa Hammett	Urban - Missoula
Susie Hedalen	Board of Public Education
Jeremy MacDonald	School Administrators of Montana
Angela McLean	Montana University System
Voyd St. Pierre	Chippewa Cree Tribe
Jennifer Smith	Urban – Billings

Office of Public Instruction/  
Board of Public Education

Pat Armstrong	Elsie Arntzen
Durand Bear Medicine	McCall Flynn
Joan Franke	Nicole Frieling
Zach Hawkins	Michelle Hensen

Mike Jetty	Dan McGee
Stephen Morsette	Julie Murgel
Brian O’Leary	Don Wetzel
Annette Young	

Guests

Todd Hanson	
Dylan Klapmeier	Governor’s Office
Lona Running Wolf	University of Montana Western

Members Absent

Rodney Bird	Bureau of Indian Education
Dawn Bishop-Moore	Indian Impact Schools of Montana
Michael Dolson	Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes
Harold Dusty Bull	Blackfeet Tribe
Megan Gourneau	Fort Peck Tribes
Iris Kill Eagle	Little Shell Tribe
Dr. Richard Littlebear	Tribal College
Riley Werk	Youth - Reservation

The Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education (MACIE) meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jennifer Smith at 9:04 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and roll call was taken.

There was an honor song for Lona Running Wolf for her service at the Office of Public Instruction as American Indian Student Achievement Unit Director and MACIE liaison.

Minutes

The minutes of the September 8, 2021, minutes were reviewed. Voyd St. Pierre motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Jeremy MacDonald seconded the motion. Passed by all.

## Chairperson Report

Jennifer Smith had Lona Running Wolf explain her position at the University of Montana Western. She will be working with tribal colleges with Blackfeet Community College and Little Big Horn College to develop curriculum to focus on culture and self-identity of students and develop curriculum so they will be prepared to teach Native American students in the classroom. It is hoped they will partner with other tribal colleges in the future.

MACIE has open positions for Head Start, Montana School Boards Association Indian School Board Caucus, and Montana Indian Education Association and Bureau of Indian Education. Requests have been sent requesting nominations.

Ms. Running Wolf's position will be posted by next week.

Chairperson Smith would like to have the Attorney General's Office attend at MACIE regarding Critical Race Theory. The Superintendent will reach out to have someone for next meeting.

Angela McLean explained the American Indian and Minority Achievement Council (AIMA). They meet before the Regent meetings to look at policies to suggest changes that will grow American Indian Student achievement.

There was discussion regarding MACIE meeting with the AIMA Council. Dugan Coburn moved to hold this meeting in December. Jeremy MacDonald seconded the motion. The talking points for the meeting will be introductions between the groups and speak to priorities to improve American Indian student achievement at the university system. The motion was passed by all. Jennifer recommended same date schedule December 8.

## Old Business

### ➤ Research Project Survey – Lona Running Wolf

Lona Running Wolf provided information on the reason for the research project. She introduced the American Indian Student Achievement (AISA) team (current and previous) – Todd Hanson, Dan McGee, Durand Bear Medicine, and Pat Armstrong and the Research Grant team – Nicole Frieling and Robin Clausen. They gave a brief update on the research project.

Ms. Running Wolf also gave information on the American Indian Achievement Task Force and introduced Michele Henson who will be taking the lead on the task force.

### ➤ Subcommittees – Jennifer Smith

#### - Student Representative

A new committee chair is needed. Chairperson Jennifer Smith will reach out to Iris Kill Eagle to see if she would be willing to chair this committee. Determination of when the youth representatives need to be on the meetings is needed.

#### - Regalia

At the original committee meeting it was determined that a statement gets written, but this did not happen. Jordann Forster will write that statement for the next meeting.

Ms. Forster said some districts have specific language in the dress code regarding graduation attire. Norma Bixby said Native American Rights Fund has language regarding regalia and they could possibly help with the language with the MACIE statement. Jennifer Smith indicated Jen Gross from Billings, who introduced bill, might have insight into this.

Chairperson Smith asked members to explore regarding this issue. This will then be on the next meeting to discuss what MACIE's statement and recommendation will be.

➤ Revisit MACIE Member Concerns

At a previous meeting there was a presentation from the ACLU regarding disparate discipline and the ACLU report. Chairperson Jennifer Smith is asked if anyone had anything else to further the discussion on this.

- Jason Cummins brought this report up in regard to concerns in the Attorney General's Opinion on Critical Race Theory regarding scapegoating.
- The Office of Public Instruction (OPI) needs to identify schools that need to implement restorative practices instead of punitive practices and offer professional development.
- The Tribal Relations and Resiliency Unit has restorative practices training they can do.
- Information can be presented at the monthly regional superintendents' meetings.

➤ Critical Race Theory (CRT) – Where we go from here

- Superintendent Arntzen will ask the Attorney General to present to MACIE.
- Need to have a consistent definition instead of everyone having their own definition.
- MACIE needs to be active in discussions.
- OPI has reached out to Dr. Sweeney Wind Chief regarding the law conference but have no confirmation yet.
- OPI Indian Education for All (IEFA) Unit has developed a FAQ document which has not been distributed yet.
- Chairperson Smith will send a definition for CRT.

New Business

➤ OPI-MACIE Relationship – Superintendent Elsie Arntzen

The Superintendent is looking for a relationship between the OPI, the Board of Public Education (BPE) and MACIE.

Chairperson Jennifer Smith said the liaison position with OPI is valuable. She also stressed the valuable assistance of Joan Franke with agendas and other issues.

Norma Bixby indicated MACIE has always been under OPI with funding assistance and is not sure what the concern is regarding the OPI-MACIE relationship. The superintendent indicated her challenge is the BPE and what they would like to see with MACIE and the role between OPI and BPE with regard to MACIE. McCall Flynn, Executive Director of the BPE, indicated they have worked with MACIE in the past and are willing to work with them in the future. Superintendent Arntzen indicated that when recommendations come from MACIE if those flow directly to the

BPE or does it flow through OPI with its approval and possible amendment, along with what seeking from OPI to fulfill the work of MACIE.

Jason Cummins indicated MACIE has not heard back from OPI regarding the language statement recommendation that was sent to OPI.

Ms. Bixby indicated that MACIE was organized by OPI with approval by the BPE.

Other members emphasized the relationship between MACIE and OPI is valuable and gives information and recommendations to all agencies regarding education for American Indian students.

➤ In-person meetings and Budget

Joan Franke will check on OPI in-person meeting requirements. This will be moved to future meeting.

Public Comment

Don Wetzel gave information about the Elders Cultural Wisdom Council that will be held in October.

The next meeting will be on November 10.

Melissa Hammett motioned to adjourn the meeting and Dugan Coburn seconded. Passed by all.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.



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**MACIE AGENDA  
INFORMATIONAL SESSION  
November 10, 2021**

**ITEM 3  
EX-OFFICIO REPORTS**

- ❖ **Superintendent of Public Instruction – Elsie Arntzen**
  - Handout 3.1
    - Presentation Summary
    - ✓ Report
  
- ❖ **Montana University System – Angela McLean**
  - Handout 3.3
    - Presentation Summary



# Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education

## Ex-officio and Indian Education Units Presentation Summaries

November 10, 2021 Meeting

Presentation	Superintendent's Report
Presenter	Elsie Arntzen
Position Title	State Superintendent
Overview/Talking Points for Presentation	General overview of current and future OPI activities, programs, and goals.  The Superintendent's talking points will be sent as soon as they're in final format.
Requested Decision	Informational
Issue(s) Related to MACIE Goals  See second page for list of goals	
Recommendation(s)	
Handouts	



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## Superintendent Arntzen's Report to MACIE November 2021

As the holidays quickly approach, I want to thank each of you for your partnership as we seek innovative ways to **Put Montana Students First**. I wish you, and your families, a healthy and blessed New Year!

### Montana Teacher of the Year:



On September 28, I announced the 2022 Montana Teacher of the Year: Bill Stockton of Arlee. Mr. Stockton is a science teacher at Arlee High School.

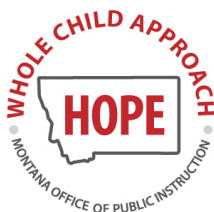
The Selection Committee was made up of representatives from the OPI, the Governor's Office, the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs, Educational Advocates, the Business community, the Montana Legislature, and the current Montana Teacher of the Year.

### American Indian Culture and Language Immersion Specialist:

A number of qualified applicants for the position are being screened and an update will be forthcoming later this month.

### Director of American Indian Student Achievement position:

In September, former Director of American Indian Student Achievement, Lona Running Wolf, left the OPI to continue her work in Indian Education at the University of Montana – Western. A number of qualified applicants for the position are being screened and an update will be forthcoming later this month.



### **Superintendent Arntzen's letter to MSBA:**

On October 15, in support of parents' freedom of speech and their right to be heard by those elected to represent them, I wrote [this letter](#) to the Montana School Boards Association.

My letter was in response to a [memo sent by Acting United States Attorney Leif Johnson](#) on October 14 to me, Montana's Attorney General, County Attorneys, Sheriffs, and the Montana School Boards Association.

### **Superintendent Arntzen's letter to the President:**

On October 7, I sent a [letter to President Biden](#) urging respect for local control and acknowledgment of the rights of Montana parents to choose what is best for themselves and their children.

### **Montana School Law Conference:**

The OPI will hold a virtual Montana School Law Conference on November 16. The conference is designed for parents, school administrators, school board members, legislators, and all those interested in current legal issues facing education.

Sessions include current federal topics, uses of federal funds for public and non-public schools, innovative assessment, parental rights, discipline of students, progressive discipline, Special Education, and more.

To register, click [here](#).

### **Montana Executive Leadership Academy for Educators:**

On October 28, the OPI launched an unparalleled professional learning opportunity for leaders in Montana education: The Montana Executive Leadership Academy.

The Academy will transform schools through an intensive leadership program designed to enhance learning opportunities. School superintendents, principals, board members, parents, and higher education leaders are all part of the first cohort of 24 members. The Academy's faculty includes renowned scholars and leading practitioners from across the country.

Academy members will learn to collect and analyze school data effectively; assess student needs and design appropriate learning experiences; and create economic value and efficiency to their schools. [Participants](#) were selected on a variety of criteria that reflect a promise to enhance education, including active engagement in their communities, relationship building skills, and innovative problem solving. The first session was October 28-30 in Belgrade.

The Academy brings both Montana and national all-star faculty to facilitate the cohort's learning and capstone project. This enables participants to expand their professional networks while learning from some of Montana's most successful leaders.

For more information, contact Deputy Superintendent Sharyl Allen at [Sharyl.Allen@mt.gov](mailto:Sharyl.Allen@mt.gov) or (406) 444-5658.

### **Montana Launches Innovative New Student Assessment Pilot Project:**

On October 25, I announced Montana is initiating a new student growth assessment pilot. The Montana Alternative Student Testing (MAST) Pilot Program is a partnership with participating school districts and MetaMetrics, Inc., and is overseen by the OPI. The pilot is designed to lessen the burden of federally mandated testing on local school districts. It also allows for measuring student growth using locally-selected interim assessments. At this time, the MAST Pilot Program will measure third through eighth-grade student achievement in reading and math.

Montana is the first state in the nation to undertake a study like this. The MAST Pilot Project timeline is:

- Phase I: (2021-2022): School district partnership and data acquisition
- Phase II: (2022-2023): Support for federal defensibility
- Planned implementation in (2023-2024) or (2024-2025) of less restrictive interim testing requirements for districts

The MAST study is funded by federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER I) dollars to spark innovative ways to address lost learning time caused by COVID-19. At this time, [30 school districts](#) have committed to participating in the MAST Pilot. Proctored tests will be given to 1,500 students per grade level per local assessment.

For more information, contact OPI Project Manager Dr. Trenin Bayless at (406) 444-3449 or [TBayless@mt.gov](mailto:TBayless@mt.gov).

### **Montana Afterschool Grant:**

On October 22, 2021, the OPI announced the availability of the Montana Afterschool Grant. The \$3.8 million grant is provided through congressional action as part of the federal American Rescue Plan's Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funding. The Afterschool Grant will fulfill objectives outlined in the [State's ARP ESSER Plan](#) as provided by federal law; funds were allocated by the Montana Legislature through [House Bill 632](#).

The \$3.8 million grant is available to qualifying, established non-profits and schools over a three-year grant period. These grants are reviewed for progress each year. Awards

will be given based on an allocation formula that considers program location, students served, and community needs. Grants will be awarded to qualified applicants while funding is available.

For more information, contact OPI's ESSER Program Manager, Jeff Kirksey, at [jeffrey.kirksey@mt.gov](mailto:jeffrey.kirksey@mt.gov) or (406) 444-0783.

### **Comprehensive School and Community Treatment Program (CSCT):**

The CSCT program was established in 2005, was moved from DPHHS in the 2021 Legislative Session and placed at the OPI along with all Medicaid and CHIP services in schools. CSCT has been a school-based health services for students with serious emotional challenges and an in-kind matching program for years. In 2016, the Center for Medicaid Services (CMS) determined that the method by which Montana accounted for the match would no longer be approved.

By 2019, DPHHS used State General funds for the match. In the 2021 Legislative Session, that match was discontinued due to sustainability issues. The challenge is with the methods available for the matching funds. The match must be non-federal funds, and the burden falls on school districts. The OPI is exploring a direct certification of expenditures which would require districts' business offices to account for the expenditures that would potentially be considered a match and reconcile expenditures and reimbursements for auditors. The other option the OPI has asked DPHHS to investigate is direct billing by providers, which may require a statutory change. The Legislature provided ~\$2 million in bridge funding while a new state plan is crafted and submitted for approval.

The OPI and DPHHS have signed an MOU. To date, \$653,766.21 has been utilized of the \$2.2 million bridge funding.

For more information, contact Deputy Superintendent Sharyl Allen at [Sharyl.Allen@mt.gov](mailto:Sharyl.Allen@mt.gov) or (406) 444-5658.

### **EANS Update:**

**EANS I** (Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools) is part of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act. This relief funding is unique as it is designated to provide services or assistance to eligible non-public schools to address educational disruptions caused by COVID-19. In Montana, non-public schools includes homeschool families and private schools. The application for these funds closed on August 27. The Cash Request application for allowable reimbursement costs started on September 22. The procurement process for the purchase of allowable services and items is being finalized. Montana received a total of \$12,616,385 in EANS I funding.

**EANS II** is part of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act. The EANS II *Intent to Apply* survey went live on the OPI's website on October 24. As the eligibility requirements for the ARP EANS funds differs from the CRRSA EANS funds, applicants will be asked to take a short survey to determine their eligibility. These requirements include meeting a 40% poverty level as well as residing in a Montana county that has been severely impacted by COVID-19. These dollars may be used for tutors, educational devices, and curriculum to further a child's academic success. Montana received a total of \$11,863,324 in EANS II funding.

For more information, contact Janey Salomon, OPI EANS Grant Manager, at (406) 410-1246 or [janey.salomon@mt.gov](mailto:janey.salomon@mt.gov).

### **ESSER Updates:**

#### **ESSER I**

There are eleven months left to obligate and spend down ESSER I allocations. ESSER I funds must be obligated by September 30, 2022 and spent by November 10, 2022.

#### **District ARP ESSER Plans**

OPI-reviewed District ARP ESSER plans will be returned to the districts by November 1, 2021 for any updates or corrections. Districts will have until November 24 to update their plans and post them to their websites.

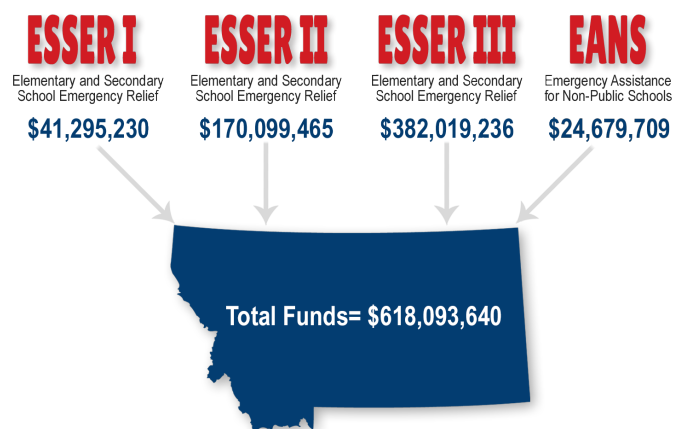
#### **District Safe Return and Continuity of Services Plans**

The OPI reviews all Safe Return plans every six months. These plans were to be posted to school websites on June 24, 2021. OPI will review school websites for updated plans in December.

For more information about ESSER I, II, or III, visit the [OPI website](#).

### **Maintenance of Equity:**

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) of 2021 contained a new a federal mandate as a requirement for receiving ESSER III COVID-19 funds from the U.S. Department of Education. ARP provides approximately \$382,019,236 in support of public education to Montana. But, Montana must satisfy a Maintenance of Equity ("MOEquity") calculation. MOEquity is a federally designed calculation in which a per-student calculation is determined by dividing the total state funding to each district (LEA) by the number of enrolled students in specified years. The difference in per-student support between years is the determination of MOEquity and only applies to designated "high need" and



“high poverty” districts under the statute. In other words, Montana may not reduce state funding (calculated on a per-pupil basis) to these LEAs for several years.

On October 14, the OPI submitted Montana’s Maintenance of Equity data to the U.S. Department of Education. The diligent work of our School Finance team helped our federal partners understand our state’s unique situations.

For more information, contact Budget Analyst Paul Taylor at (406) 444-1257 or [PTaylor2@mt.gov](mailto:PTaylor2@mt.gov).

### **Red Ribbon Week:**

National Red Ribbon Week was observed October 23-31, 2021. The OPI supported the occasion through posts on our social media channels.

For more information about substance use among Montana’s youth, visit our [2021 Youth Risk Behavior Survey](#).

### **Montana Teen Driver Safety Day:**

In observance of Montana Teen Driver Safety Day on October 19, I encouraged Montana parents to talk with their teens about the importance of safety behind the wheel. The OPI Traffic Education Office has a list of resources available for parents and teens.

October 19 was designated as [Montana Teen Driver Safety Day](#) by the Montana Legislature to renew the importance of giving the state’s next generation the lifesaving habits they need as good drivers.

For the 2020-2021 school year and 2021 summer programs, 8,358 Montana teens completed a traffic education course.

# Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education

## Ex-officio and Indian Education Units Presentation Summaries

\_\_\_\_\_ November 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ (date) Meeting

Presentation	Montana University System Update
Presenter	Angela McLean
Position Title	Director of American Indian and Minority Achievement and K-12 Partnerships
Overview/Talking Points for Presentation	MUS Update
Requested Decision	
Issue(s) Related to MACIE Goals	
Recommendation(s)	
Handouts	



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**MACIE AGENDA  
INFORMATIONAL SESSION  
NOVEMBER 10, 2021**

**ITEM 4**

**AMERICAN INDIAN EDUCATION ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

❖ **Tribal Relations & Resiliency Unit**

- Handout 4.1
  - Presentation Summary

❖ **Indian Education for All Unit Report**

- Handout 4.2
  - Presentation Summary

# Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education

## Ex-officio and Indian Education Units Presentation Summaries

November 10, 2021 (date) Meeting

Presentation	Tribal Relations and Resiliency Update
Presenter	Donnie Wetzel
Position Title	Director
Overview/Talking Points for Presentation	Updates on TRRU team efforts with consultation as well as student's health and wellness support. Elders and Cultural Wisdom Council. Columbia Fall and Browning Student Exchange. Reloading of Indian Education and the vision forward. Intro of new employees. Culture and Language Position, Comprehensive School Support. Outreach to schools – counter misconceptions.
Requested Decision	Direction on how to better honor and elevate the strength of MACIE to help and assist schools.
Issue(s) Related to MACIE Goals  See second page for list of goals	2. Action and Solution driven – through Youth – CFHS & BHS 3. Intro and updates on ILIP, MILP and new position.
Recommendation(s)	
Handouts	



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# Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education

## Ex-officio and Indian Education Units Presentation Summaries

November 10, 2021 Meeting

Presentation	Indian Education for All program updates
Presenter	Zach Hawkins/ Mike Jetty
Position Title	Director of Indian Education for All/ IEFA Specialist
Overview/Talking Points for Presentation	This presentation will cover ongoing and planned projects the OPI IEFA unit is and will be working on. Included are the Advocacy Award Winners and Native Ethnobotanists webinar series, activities and initiatives for Native American Heritage Month, and planned efforts to work with MUS and American Indian advocates across Montana.
Requested Decision	N/A
Issue(s) Related to MACIE Goals  See second page for list of goals	Goal 5: Culture, language, and culturally relevant curriculum  Goal 6: Equitable access to virtual teaching-learning platforms and connectivity
Recommendation(s)	N/A
Handouts	None



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**MACIE AGENDA**  
**INFORMATIONAL SESSION**  
**DATE**  
**ITEM 6**  
**INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS**

- ❖ **Montana Rural Teacher Project**
  - Handout 6.1
    - Presentation Summary
      - ✓ Montana Rural Teacher Project
      - ✓ Master of Arts in Teaching Program Flyer
  
- ❖ **English Learners as it Relates to Native Students**
  - Handout 6.2
    - Presentation Summary

## MACIE AGENDA PRESENTATION REQUEST

Name and title of person presenting	Tricia Seifert, Professor of Adult & Higher Education
Contact information: phone	406-994-3127
Contact information: e-mail	tricia.seifert@montana.edu
Organization	Montana State University
Select one	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> New Business
Presentation title	Montana Rural Teacher Project - Final Cohort Recruitment
Description of presentation	Dr. Seifert will share about the Masters of Arts in Teaching degree program at Montana State, which provides pedagogical preparation to become a licensed teacher in Montana in about one year. The Montana Rural Teacher Project provides a living wage stipend for students in the MAT to complete their degree and then teach in an eligible school, most of which are in rural Montana.
How does this relate to the MACIE goals (next page)	Recruiting and retaining teachers in schools on or near tribal communities can be difficult. Recognizing that people are one of a community's greatest strengths, the MAT prepare community members with bachelor's degrees to become teachers in their local school. The curriculum is place-based and rural-focused. It is the foundation for community engagement within the school system, local people teaching local kids.
Action requesting the advisory council take	Assist in getting the word out about the opportunity to become a licensed teacher.
Handouts (send with presentation request)	
Technology requirements	None. Please confirm whether this meeting is in person or via Zoom.



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# Montana Rural Teacher Project

is a competitive teacher residency program linked to Montana State University's Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT). The MAT is a 12-15 month full-time graduate degree that prepares individuals for employment as K-12 in Montana's rural schools. The Montana Rural Teacher Project is a federally-funded program designed to support rural teacher candidates as they complete the MAT degree and transition into classrooms.



## Project support extends from teacher preparation into the first two years of teaching and includes the following:

- Placement in a rural school during the MAT program, with structured activities designed to meet practicum and student teaching requirements.
- Financial support through living-wage stipend during MAT program.
- New teacher mentoring and support during the first two years of teaching.
- Ongoing opportunities for online and face-to-face professional learning provided by a wide variety of statewide organizations.
- Professional Development for school leaders (principals and superintendents, school board members) about best practices in recruiting and retaining high-quality rural teachers.

**The goal of the Montana Rural Teacher Project** is to strengthen rural education in Montana by placing qualified and motivated teachers in rural K-12 classrooms. Ideally, we seek to “grow” teachers locally by recruiting candidates from within rural communities.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
[MONTANA.EDU/EDUCATION/GRAD/MAT](http://MONTANA.EDU/EDUCATION/GRAD/MAT)

For Questions and Additional Information:

**Jamie O'Callaghan**  
[jamie.ocallaghan@montana.edu](mailto:jamie.ocallaghan@montana.edu)



## Requirements of the Program

Successful applicants for the Montana Rural Teacher Project must meet selection criteria, actively engage in the MAT curriculum, and commit to teaching in a rural school setting for at least three years.

### Teaching Residency Requirements:

- Complete the Master of Arts in Teaching program in the designated timeline
- Successfully complete the required Teaching Residency in one of the designated high-need LEA's as outlined and determined by the MAT program
- Upon successful completion of the MAT program and Institutional Recommendation for Montana Educator licensure apply for Class 2 Teaching License.

### Service Obligation:

- Apply for and obtain a teaching position in a designated high-need school (does not have to be the same school in which the Teaching Residency was completed).
- Maintain employment as a teacher for a minimum of three academic years in the designated high-need school.
- Participate in the Montana Rural Teacher Project mentoring program.

# Master of Arts in Teaching Program

The Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) is a full-time pathway to initial teaching licensure. Participants will study to become a teacher with a cohort in a dynamic and hands-on learning environment.



Program students will complete a full-time course of graduate study to complete the master's degree and requirements to earn a recommendation for a Montana Class 2 Teaching License in a compressed time period (elementary 14 months, secondary 12 months). The MAT is offered online, with the exception of one, seven-day residency during the summer, so that our participants can remain in their communities.

## Licensure options for the MAT are:

- **Elementary Education**
- **Secondary Education**  
(endorsements in English, Science, Math, and Social Studies)

## Who Should Participate?

The MAT program is designed to support the needs for fully licensed teachers in Montana's rural communities. Qualified individuals will spend one year engaged in full-time graduate study both through coursework and hands-on classroom experience completed in a rural setting (please note we cannot place candidates within fifty miles of Bozeman).

MAT students will typically enroll in twelve credits per semester and will engage with school-age children through our summer camp (2019 Dates: July 20-26), initial classroom experience in the fall semester, and full-time student teaching in the spring semester.

With prior approval, the MAT also supports Class V license holders who are teaching in their own classroom. This route will take two years on an alternative schedule.



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## Features

- Online - Study from your home community
- Intensive, full-time study so you can obtain your license in about one year
- Experiential and field based – graduate students work with K-12 students from their first semester in the program
- Rural focused, with the culminating capstone course titled “Reflective Inquiry in Rural Education”

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
[MONTANA.EDU/EDUCATION/GRAD/MAT](http://MONTANA.EDU/EDUCATION/GRAD/MAT)

For Questions and Additional Information:

**Jamie O'Callaghan**  
[jamie.ocallaghan@montana.edu](mailto:jamie.ocallaghan@montana.edu)

## MACIE AGENDA PRESENTATION REQUEST

Name and title of person presenting	Evelyn Paz, English Learner Specialist
Contact information: phone	406-459-3552
Contact information: e-mail	evelyn.paz@mt.gov
Organization	Office of Public Instruction
Select one	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> New Business
Presentation title	English Learners as it Relates to Native Students
Description of presentation	
How does this relate to the MACIE goals (next page)	#2
Action requesting the advisory council take	None
Handouts (send with presentation request)	None
Technology requirements	None



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SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

**MACIE AGENDA  
INFORMATIONAL SESSION  
DATE  
ITEM 7  
Old BUSINESS**

❖ **Regalia Committee Update**