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## **Regional Career Coach Report ~ August 29, 2023**

Preface: The following work has been conducted by eight Regional Career Coaches hired thus far. This work has been done during the month of August, with some carry-over work from July. Know that connecting with school districts has been difficult due to their unavailability during the summer months.

### **Northwest Region – Rachael Hagen:**

- I have contacted the Montana Army National Guard Recruiters and Montana Marine Corps Recruiter in Kalispell, Montana. Both groups are incredibly excited that our department exists and are eager to work with us in future endeavors. I am also scheduling meetings with the other armed forces recruiters in Kalispell, MT—Navy, Air Force, and U.S. Army—to establish connections with them.
- I have met with Whitefish High School and have discussed how I can help further their CTE program. We have made plans to meet at least once a month, and I will become a regular facet of their CTE department meetings.
- I met with and toured the Rocky Mountain Twist facility in Ronan, Montana. They are excited to be involved in our mission in any way they possibly can—from meeting and speaking with students to offering apprenticeship opportunities when able.

### **Western Region – Julissa Bencia-Hensel:**

- Mary and I met with Modern Machinery to discuss partnering with Build MT. In addition, discuss how Modern Machinery can be more involved with the high schools. They want to be informed about Career Fairs and discussed attending the MPSEOC career fair in Sept. and presenting together during a Parent Night. We discussed and will continue to elaborate more about pre-apprenticeship, providing tours, and being a guest speaker with schools.
- Justin and I met with LifeLong Learning Center (LLC -Adult Ed) learning about their needs and how we can assist their Hi-Set students with WBL and provide other resources. Also, was able to refer BE member to LLC who finds out types of industry training the company needs so LLC can fill that need.
- Rachel, Justin, and I are working with Steve Dybdal from MT Manufacturing Extension Center assisting with organizing Manufacturing Day on Oct. 5 by calling schools in the Missoula Ravalli, Mineral, and Lewis and Clark areas to confirm attendance and discuss the importance of CTE pathways. In addition, having the opportunity to call more than 30 schools to introduce ourselves as the school's RCC and making connections.
- Creating a stronger relationship with DLI by meeting with JMG, statewide Job Service office staff, BEE, and MCIS and learning about each other's programs and how we can collaborate by sharing resources.
- Continuously attending monthly networking meetings with businesses: Chamber – Business After Hours, Job Service Employer Council, AccelerateMT, Zootown Network, Missoula and Bitterroot Community Member Teams.

### **Western Region – Justin Kendhammer:**

- In Justin's first three weeks he has had productive meetings with Missoula County Public Schools CTE director, Lifelong Learning Center in Missoula, and made contact with Potomac Elementary and Arlee school district for later meetings after the first couple of weeks of getting started for the year
- Justin has met with community partners REO (Rural Employment Opportunities), HOSA, DLI Apprenticeship, DLI Business Engagement, AHEC, and representatives from DLI/ Job Service and DVOP (Disabled Veteran Outreach Coordinator) Bozeman, VSN (Veteran Support Network) Missoula, DVOP Missoula, and MPSEOC
- Justin is helping to coordinate Montana Colleges/DLI Career Fair Day enhancements to allow Career Coaches to reach more parents and students in order to better understand how Career Coaches can help create and explore career pathways
- Veteran and military community partners have expressed support and desire to coordinate with Career Coach efforts to help students and adults explore military pathways

### **Four-Rivers Region (north central-to-western area) – Suzie Michalski:**

- Suzie is working with Celeste to collaborate connections for rural and area health/medical along with working cohesively with MSU and other higher-ed institutions for this area of need.
- Suzie has made head-way in working with Jefferson County High School in collaboration with Dick Anderson Construction, and DLI for registered apprenticeships.
- Suzie is actively working with the local Business Engagement Specialist, Andy Shirtliff, out of Helena for collaboration of business engagement with area school districts.
- Suzie continues her work as an EMS worker in connecting with health and medical facilities to get them more engaged in school districts.

### **Four-Rivers Region (mid to south-central area) – Celeste Miller:**

- I have had Great meetings with the Livingston public schools Work Based Learning Coordinator and Community School Collaborative. We will be meeting every two weeks. I will be supporting the WBL coordinator with parent nights and working with the Community School Collaborative on their middle school career days.
- Met with Beaverhead County Chamber and UMW outreach and dual enrollment. We have developed a local workforce advisory council and are going to meet monthly to begin moving the dial forward on workforce needs in Beaverhead County. We are beginning talks for a career conference for Dillon middle school students during CTE month in February.
- I have been invited to sit on the workforce advisory council in Gallatin County. When we met in June Bozeman School District was looking into Advanced Opportunity and increasing WBL opportunities for their students.

### **South-Central Region – Crystal Wright:**

- Working with the Montana Contractors Association, Billings School District, industries in the surrounding area, as well as Montana Schools, to plan and distribute information on the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Build Montana Construction PopUp Event. This will take place on September 14, 2023 at Billings Career Center. As well as assisting with the Manufacturing Day also in Billings on October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- Reached out with an introduction to Hardin, Shepherd, and Laurel Schools and have meetings scheduled in September to present Montana Ready and what we can do to support schools and students.
- Meet with and toured Red Lodge CTE Building and an MCA COP Construction worksite with Langlas Construction, Joliet School Counselor, Red Lodge Administration, CTE Specialist, and MCA Build Montana/Workforce Director.
- Met with Job Services and Apprenticeship Department and an Employment Counselor. They have invited me to the Job Service Employers Committee Meeting in the future. Also, gathered contacts for the Native American Development Corporation to assist Tribal Schools.

### **Central Region – Jillian Bellah:**

- Developed strong partnerships with DLI and Accelerate MT; we have a standing meeting on Monday afternoons to update everyone to meet the needs of the community and ensure we are collaborating effectively and providing a united front to education and industry to develop a workforce that meets the needs of the community
- Through my weekly standing meetings with my counterparts from other agencies, we are working to put together community nights where students, parents, and industry leaders can learn more about opportunities and having a career day in the school which would include lining up industry representatives, setting them up in a classroom and having the students rotate through a schedule throughout the school day to learn more about each company and industry in the region
- Attended a meeting with one of the largest stakeholders in Lewistown/Fergus County (Regent Jeff Southworth), Ashley Morris (Safety and HR for all of Regent Southworth's businesses), Dean Stephanie Erdmann (CEO/Dean of Great Falls College), Cassie Bergstrom and Jimmie Rude (two Business Engagement Strategists from DLI), and Mary Heller to discuss how we can sustainably build and workforce readiness in Lewistown and Fergus County; as a result of this meeting key stakeholders have agreed to help support me as the liaison to the schools working cohesively with our DLI counterparts to connect our students with industry; they have agreed to help me find an office space to help facilitate regular meetings with students to provide career coaching in all of its aspects

### **North-Central Region – Kelsey Brown:**

- Great Falls Public Schools: At the beginning of the month, I met with Heather Hoyer and Mark Yaeger from GFPS. They are both immersed in the work of elevating career readiness and expanding CTE/CTSO engagement across the district. Mark shared the industries that he has found success with for hosting WBL opportunities and strategies that have worked. We talked about a need for career-connected learning across student's experience (not just in CTE classes), down to the elementary level. Heather is passionate about building teachers' awareness of and capacity for career-connect learning, she has developed the "Educators Workforce Academy" along with Mark, that teachers can participate in for PIR credits. Next steps for me are to be a part of this and see how I could take it other school districts in my region. As a district, GFPS is fully behind the mission of Montana Ready and desires to be a resource to other schools looking to expand their CTE/CTSO engagement and WBL opportunities.
- Central Montana Works: I am on the Steering Committee for the Worlds of Work event, and specifically working with Jillian on rural school recruitment for the event happening on Sept. 26th. Not only am I reaching out to encourage schools to register, but I have shared with some

of the attending schools a survey that they can utilize with their students to gather data on who wants to do Job Shadowing / what industries they are interested in. I have also offered to help any interested schools in creating a lesson to 'prime' students for the event. Talking with the schools about this event has opened the door for me to connect with: Heart Butte (visiting 9/13), Big Sandy (visiting 8/29), North Start (visiting 9/6), Power, Centerville, Cascade, Fairfield, and more!

- Havre Job Services: You and I met with Samm Nimick from Job Services in Havre and heard about their hope to implement a program at the high school to support students employability skill development, career awareness/navigation, access to WBL, and hopefully IRC/skill attainment. I am excited to learn more about this next week and see how we can support the high school in implementing this service!
- AHEC/Montana Hospital Association: I have a meeting scheduled with Alexis Tobin from the Montana Hospital Association for next week and look forward to learning more about MHAs efforts in workforce development and how we can connect them and healthcare facilities with more schools.
- Upcoming: Next week I meet with Mike Parcel, the Business Engagement Specialist with DLI. Additionally, I briefly met Lacey Hallet, the Community Impact Director for United Way of Cascade County, we will schedule a sit-down soon to talk about their Graduation Matters – Cradle to Career initiative and how we can partner to impact more rural schools in Cascade County.

#### **Other Wins for Montana Ready and Career Coaches:**

- Along with the Regional Career Coaches, Mary Heller has made strides in collaborating with the DLI on many levels:
  - Business Engagement Team
  - Registered Apprenticeship
  - JMG
  - Career Lab Resources
  - Job Service
- Peter Baker with Accelerate Montana met with Mary and the discussion was focused on collaboration of how to best put all resources available to students and parents out for all to see
  - There are many pathways to career success and parents, students, counselors, teachers, need to be educated on all
  - Some kind of a "one stop shop" information center so that anyone can see who does what
- The 9<sup>th</sup> Career Coach has been offered and accepted the position. Her name is Courtney George and she will be based out of Billings. This will help the eastern region along with Crystal and Jillian. Courtney's start date is September 5<sup>th</sup>.