



PUTTING MONTANA  
STUDENTS FIRST

## December 2021 Education Compass

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OPI Compass

December 3, 2021



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Important Dates



As Rabbi Bruk lit the Menorah for the fourth day of Hanukkah, blessings were said to all those serving our Montana students and families.

Happy Hanukkah and Merry Christmas!

*Elsie Arntzen*

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## **The OPI welcomes our new OPI team members:**

**Matthew Bell** will be joining the OPI on January 4<sup>th</sup> as **the Native Language Immersion and Culture Specialist**. Matthew will be overseeing the implementation of the Indian Language and Immersion Program and the Montana Language Preservation Program. Matthew has taught English and Native Language Studies for over 11 years. He has also studied Native American Studies in his bachelor's and master's degrees. He has a strong knowledge of language instruction, including second language instruction. He has a desire to make a positive impact and increase native culture and improve language preservation opportunities. We look forward to Matthew joining the team and making a positive impact on Native Youth through native language and culture.

**Carrie Gopher** will be joining the OPI in the new year on January 4<sup>th</sup> as the **American Indian Student Achievement Director**. Carrie has an extensive teaching background. She has taught all levels of school - Elementary, Middle, and High School. She has been an elementary, family and consumer science, driver's education, and secondary math teacher in Rocky Boy School District. Carrie has also served as an assistant athletic director and native youth communities project coordinator. Most recently, she has served in a leadership role as a Dean of Students. She has a strong desire to support the education of Native American students across the state of Montana. She is currently completing her administrative degree and desires to take on leadership roles. She is willing to do whatever it takes to complete the job. We are excited to have Carrie joining the team and advocating for native youth achievement.

**Jamie Corley** comes to the OPI with a depth of experience in **Health Science Education and Public Safety** that spans high school, post-secondary, correctional settings, as well as being a US Navy Corpsman. She will join the CTE team with great connections and relationships with Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), post-secondary programs, and work-based learning entities. Ms. Corley is a self-starter, comfortable with technology tools, and has extensive experience with online teaching.

We are pleased to introduce **Ellery Bresler as the new Accreditation Data Specialist** for the OPI. Ellery grew up in the small town of Havre on the Hi-Line. She spent her first two years of college at a community college in Casper, Wyoming, graduating with her associate's degree. She then transferred to Carroll College, here in Helena, where she obtained her bachelor's degree in Anthrozoology. After graduation, she decided to stay in Helena because she fell in love with the community. She has been working as an account specialist for the last three years. She lives here with her boyfriend and their two dogs, Douglas and Finlee. Talking about her dogs is one of her favorite activities.

We are excited for Ellery to begin her work Monday, December 6, under the leadership of Nathan Miller, the Accreditation Program Manager.

**Rahul Cheriya** is an experienced IT systems technical specialist that is joining OPI's **Data and Technology Services** on Monday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. Rahul has extensive experience in analyzing business requirements into functional and technical design specifications. He also has hands-on experience in handling large volumes of data in multiple environments. Rahul joins OPI from the Maryland Longitudinal Data Systems Center (MLDSC).

The Office of Public Instruction is pleased to welcome our new **Broadband Management Liaison, Lindsey Murolo**. Lindsey is from Great Falls and has lived in Helena for many years. She will support our Montana schools by helping them utilize current and future broadband funding. Lindsey is excited to work with our public, private, and homeschooled students to further their education now and in the future.

Lindsey can be contacted at [lindsey.murolo@mt.gov](mailto:lindsey.murolo@mt.gov)

### **Retirement:**

Join us in thanks as we celebrate Nica Merala and Tom Antonick's retirement and wish them well. Both will be sincerely missed!

### **E-Rate State Matching Funds Competitive Grant:**

The E-Rate Competitive Grant applications are now available on our [website](#). These grants provide funds to schools for broadband connectivity. The total available funds are \$750,000, which will keep our Montana students connected now and in the future. Public and private K-12 schools are eligible to receive these funds. Funding covers Telecommunications, Telecommunications Services, Internet Access, Internal Connections, and Basic Maintenance of Internal Connections.

For more information, please contact Tristen Loveridge at [tristen.belnap@mt.gov](mailto:tristen.belnap@mt.gov)

### **ARPA Water and Sewer Grant:**

Montana school districts may consider applying for an ARPA grant if they are eligible for water/sewer projects. The [ARPA competitive grant deadline](#) is January 14<sup>th</sup> for the second round of applications. Qualifying districts have until the deadline to submit grant applications for projects. This grant is through the DNRC with the aid of the Department of Commerce.

### **Language Revitalization Class:**

Representative Windy Boy is hosting a Language Revitalization Class in Billings and via Zoom on December 10 and 11. To register, please visit the registration [link](#). Additional contact info is in the flyer.

“Please join us for a Tribally Driven Class 7 Professional Development Training. This training is designed to empower all attendees who are interested in providing their students culturally responsive pedagogy. Our training features many tribal and non-tribal professionals who are dedicated to advancing the Language, Culture, and History of all native nations across the continent. Please see the flyer and feel free to join us as we begin to shift the tribal educational landscape in this land we call home.”

-Jonathan Eagleman

Ojibwe Neyio Language Instructor

# CLASS 7 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING & LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION PLANNING WORKSHOP

## DECEMBER 10TH - 11TH, 2021

MSU BILLINGS, 2630 NORMAL AVENUE, BILLINGS, MONTANA

✦ *Sponsored by:* ✦

Chippewa Cree Tribe Department of Indian Education  
MSU Bozeman Center for Bilingual and Multicultural Education  
MSU Billings American Indian Student Achievement  
Fort Peck Tribes Language & Culture Department

**Workshop Agenda: Friday, December 10th, 2021**  
**Petro Theater, Student Union Building • 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

7:30-8:00 Workshop Registration Opens

8:00-9:00 Welcome

Cultural Integrity Act/Montana Indian Language Preservation/Digital Academy/College Tribal Linguistics

9:00-10:00 Tribal Language Lesson Planning

10:00-10:15 Break

10:15-11:45 Tribal Language Curriculum/Tribal Language Standards

11:45-12:45 Lunch

12:45-2:00 Culturally Responsive Pedagogy: Tribal Perspectives

2:00-2:15 Break

2:15-3:45 Assessment

3:45-5:00 Class 7 Participant Presentations/Renewal Units

**Workshop Agenda: Saturday, December 11th, 2021**  
**Glacier Room, Student Union Building • 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

8:00 - 9:00 Tribal Language Preservation Networking: Continental Breakfast

9:00-10:30 **Language Revitalization Planning: Montana Indian Language Program**

Provide a Big Picture overview of Planning and Development for Language Revitalization  
Identify some of the most common challenges

Discuss in detail the vision, mission, goal and objectives of your planning group

12:00-12:30 Lunch

12:30-2:00 **Indian Language Immersion: Cultural Integrity Commitment Act**

2:00-2:15 Break

2:15-3:30 Wrap Up

**Tribal Language Goals/Tribal Language Strategies/Tribal Language Metrics**

**TO REGISTER OR TO REQUEST ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

**Sunny Day Real Bird, Director of the Native American Achievement Center, MSU Billings**

**(406)657-2144 or [sunnyday.realbird@msubillings.edu](mailto:sunnyday.realbird@msubillings.edu)**

*Workshops will also be streamed via Zoom. Attendees will adhere to COVID-19 safety measures through social distancing, face masks, and hand sanitizing.*

## Scholarships for Art & Writing on Grief and Loss:

Do you know a creative teen in grades 7–12 who has experienced grief or loss? The [New York Life Award](#) offers \$1,000 scholarships to six students whose works explore personal grief and loss. State scholarships of **\$500 are available to two Montana students**. All students in grades 7–12 (ages 13 and up) are eligible to participate and should apply through the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. The deadline is **December 6, 2021**.

Visit [artandwriting.org/nylife](http://artandwriting.org/nylife) to apply.

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**Click the links below to see updates from OPI's units.**

[Achievement in Montana \(AIM\)](#)

[Assessment](#)

[Career, Technical and Adult Education](#)

[Coordinated School Health](#)

[Educator Licensure](#)

[Emergency Authorization for Non-Public Schools \(EANS\)](#)

[Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief \(ESSER\)](#)

[Montana Autism Education Project](#)

[School Finance](#)

[School Nutrition](#)

[Special Education](#)

[Standards, Instruction & Professional Learning](#)

[Transformational Learning & Advanced Opportunities](#)

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**Questions? Contact:**

[Brian O'Leary](#), Deputy Communications Director

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