



# Compact Connects

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## MTCC Breaking News...

### **President's Fourth of July Declaration on the Civic Responsibility of Higher Education**

Presidents, chancellors and deans from the 15 member campuses of The Montana Campus Compact gathered at The University of Montana on November 17, 2000 to sign a declaration affirming their institutions' commitment to service and civic engagement.

The "Presidents' Fourth of July Declaration on the Civic Responsibility of Higher Education" originally was endorsed at a university Presidents' Leadership Colloquium convened by Campus Compact and the American Council on Education in July 1999.

"This country cannot afford to educate a generation that acquires knowledge without ever understanding how that knowledge can benefit society or how to influence democratic decision making," the declaration reads. "We must teach the skills and values of democracy, creating innumerable opportunities for our students to practice and reap the results of the real, hard work of citizenship."

The complete declaration is online at <http://www.compact.org>.

### **Civic Engagement Seminar**

On Friday February 2, 2001 The Montana Campus Compact staff will host a one-day Civic Engagement Seminar on the campus of Montana State University—Billings. The event will feature service-learning workshops for faculty members as well as student development workshops on co-curricular and extra curricular community service. Information on all of The Montana Campus Compact's programs and initiatives will be available.

### **ACMAC – The AmeriCorps Member Advisory Council**

Montana's AmeriCorps Member Advisory Council (ACMAC) will begin meeting in January 2001. MTCC's three AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps\*VISTA projects will send members to work on the council. ACMAC is an opportunity for members from AmeriCorps projects from across Montana to come together to develop leadership skills, work on statewide projects and to share the insights and knowledge they've learned from their projects. ACMAC achievements last year include a video primer to the AmeriCorps and VISTA projects in Montana, Native American Youth Service Day in which over 40 AmeriCorps Members from across the state participated, a statewide newsletter, and facilitating the AmeriCorps Spring Training Event. ACMAC looks forward this year to working directly with the State Commission's Marketing Committee and involvement in the AmeriCorps Spring Training Event. Please contact Josh Vanek, MTCC's VISTA Leader, for more information about ACMAC (joshvanek@yahoo.com, (406) 243-5177).

## **MTCC\*VISTA Project**

The Montana Campus Compact VISTA Project, or MTCC\*VISTA, is working to develop more volunteer opportunities and more opportunities to reward service with tuition assistance. We'd like to use this opportunity to update you on some of the work the MTCC\*VISTA Project is doing. If you are interested in becoming more involved, hearing more, or if you have any questions or suggestions please don't hesitate to contact Josh Vanek (joshvanek@yahoo.com, (406) 243-5177).

### **The President's Student Service Scholarship**

The President's Student Service Scholarship (PSSC) is \$1000 for high school students with deep commitments to service. Every high school in Montana is eligible to award two scholarships this year. To be eligible, students must do a minimum of 100 hours of community service over the school year. The MTCC\*VISTA Project has been working hard to promote the PSSC's with high school counselors across the state as well as helping schools raise the community match part of the scholarship. The President's Student Service Scholarship web address is:

<http://www.student-service-awards.org/scholarship.html>

\*MTCC is looking for people who would like to help involve schools around Butte, Billings and in eastern Montana. Supporting the President's Student Service Scholarship has been brought to the attention of all Montana United Ways and many have already committed support for the scholarships. If you know of people interested in promoting service from your campus please email or call Josh Vanek to see that anyone who is interested gets a list of high schools to contact as well as the kit that explains everything to high school counselors.

In addition to contacting high school counselors, MTCC\*VISTA Project Members are making great progress to link their community service organizations with high schools to see that more service scholarships are awarded across our state. MTCC\*VISTA's have

been working to forge relationships between high schools and community organizations to insure that in years to come it's easier to award these scholarships.

### **The MTCC Service Poll**

Members of the MTCC\*VISTA Project are getting in touch with student government officials at Member Campuses to ask that they administer the Montana Campus Compact's Service Poll. The Service Poll is a way to gauge student engagement in Montana and see where MTCC needs to focus its efforts; where it's doing well and where changes need to be made. Copies of the poll have recently been mailed to student government representatives and MTCC campus constituents.

### **Martin Luther King Day Celebration**

The United Way and the AmeriCorps programs (Volunteer Montana, Prevention Resource VISTA, America Reads VISTA and MTCC VISTA) in the Flathead Valley have teamed up to work on the annual MLK Day Celebration. As part of the festivities, there will be a valley-wide Essay, Art and Poetry Contest with the theme of "I have a dream," or celebrating diversity. All entries will be displayed at the Celebration on January 27, 2001. Select entries will be chosen to present at the Celebration. The Celebration will include speakers and also a chance to volunteer. The youth will make cards and then deliver them to area assisted living facilities or nursing homes. We are excited to celebrate the life and times of Dr. Martin Luther King!

### **MTCC Receives Generous Gift from the Sample Foundation**

Thanks to the diligent work of MTCC VISTA Member, Jennifer Barile, The Montana Campus Compact recently received a generous monetary gift from the Sample Foundation. These funds will allow us to proceed with the production and mailing of our new informational brochure as part of MTCC's current fundraising campaign!

### **Campus Compact's New Edition**

Sam Pierce recently joined on as MTCC headquarters' new work-study. Sam is a valuable asset to our office, producing our new Member Institution Handbook, managing our mailing campaign database, and organizing the MTCC resource library, among many other things. Word has it, Sam makes the best Brownie Bites this side of the Mississippi!

## **Spotlight on Service**

My name is Molly Collins and I am an AmeriCorps\*VISTA Member in Kalispell, Montana. I feel especially close to my project because I was born and raised in the Kalispell area. It gives me great pleasure to give back to the community that supported me with many resources in my youth. My projects for the VISTA term focus on giving youth the opportunity to serve in their community. This includes seeking out new volunteer opportunities and finding the youth that want to volunteer. Over the holiday season, I have felt the satisfaction of making a difference in my hometown community.

In early November, I called the Salvation Army to ask if they had a youth program that was active in the community. As I was talking with a woman named Daylene Staneart, she mentioned an annual Christmas Drive that she needed volunteers for. Since my project focuses on youth volunteer opportunities, I knew that I could possibly help her. So I began to “get the word out” about the project. I spoke with different youth organizations at various high schools. I spent a few hours each month during lunchtime at the four area high schools talking about the Salvation Army Christmas Drive and how the youth could help. Through my efforts, I was able to find approximately fifty youth volunteers to help their community during the holiday season. What a wonderful gift that was!

## Civic Engagement Tip

Each and every one of us can be responsible for the well-being of our communities and our world! How can you become a more active, involved, and responsible citizen for your community and your country? Check out the easy tips below to take action...

✦ Is there something in your community that you think needs fixing? How about something that is very valuable to your community? Do you just have a strong opinion on a current event? Then write a letter to the editor of your local paper. “LTE’s” are a very effective way of raising awareness in others, and expressing your viewpoint publicly. Be sure you do your homework, have someone proofread it, and slap a stamp on the envelope. FYI- many local papers now accept “LTE’s” electronically as well!

✦ There is a mistaken belief among would-be activists that to take a committed public stand on any issue requires one to be a larger-than-life figure—someone with more time, courage, energy, vision, or knowledge than any of us normal people could ever possess. This belief ruins important movements before they begin. It can paralyze us into inaction and disengagement. It’s not hard to figure out how myths like this get to be so pervasive in our society. A good example is the story of Rosa Parks.

Many people are familiar with the account of the famous Ms. Parks who wouldn’t give up her seat in the Whites Only section of the city bus in Montgomery, Alabama. That incident set in motion the yearlong bus boycott and turned Rosa Parks into the “mother of the civil rights movement.” This rendition is as famous as Rosa Parks herself. It is an inspiring story but often leaves people to feel helpless when they think about how much it would take of themselves to do what Ms. Parks did.

The problem with this famous account is that it is void of most of the context in which Parks’ refusal occurred. Of equal importance, but far less known, is the fact that prior to the bus incident, Ms. Parks worked for 12 years putting together the local chapter of the NAACP. The summer before the incident, Ms. Parks attended a training session at the Highlander Center on social activism where she was educated on court decisions, legal precedent, and activism campaigns. She learned about other successful events such as

another Montgomery bus boycott fifty years earlier which successfully eased riding restrictions on Blacks. She learned that two years earlier a Baton Rouge bus boycott was somewhat successful; and that just months before Parks' arrest, a young Montgomery woman also refused to move to the back of the bus but was deemed an unfit symbol for the campaign because she was unmarried and pregnant.

The point here is that Rosa Parks' decision to take a stand was part of an existing broader effort to create change. This does not and should not diminish her powerful principled statement by refusing to give up her seat. It should however, remind us that this extremely consequential act might never have taken place without a tremendous amount of humble, frustrating, less celebrated work that she and others had previously accomplished. This is work that we may not become famous for, but it is work that we all can do.

## Resource Roundup

☑ If you and your team are gearing up to plan a Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, this is the guide for you! Produced by The Montana Campus Compact, the **“Martin Luther King Day Service Project Toolkit”** contains all kinds of information like the holiday background, pertinent web sites, project ideas, biography of MLK, essential elements and more!

☑ Interested in learning more about multicultural issues? “The Tutor” newsletter, Spring 1999 edition has lots of information for you! Contact the Montana Campus Compact at 243-5175 for your copy. Please reference the America Reads Resource Collection when calling.

☑ Sometimes peer training is the best training there is! Talk to someone who is working on similar issues that you are. Produced by The Montana Campus Compact, the **“Peer Exchange Resource Guide”** has everything you need to conduct a productive and successful peer exchange with a fellow member. The guide contains information about identifying objectives of your meeting, conducting the peer exchange, and following-up. A very valuable resource for anyone looking to find out ways other members in the program are dealing with similar projects! Contact The Montana Campus Compact at 243-5175 for your copy!

☑ Looking for some fun and fresh literacy activities for yourself or your tutors? Here are some great resources to help you on your way!

- Guide: “Games and Word Activities”

Produced by The LEARNS Partners at the Bank Street College of Education

Contact The Montana Campus Compact (please reference the America Reads Resource Collection when calling) or go to <http://www.nwrel.org/learns>.

- “The Tutor” newsletter September 1998 supplement – “Putting Research to Use – 13 Activities That Help Children Read”

Contact The Montana Campus Compact (please reference the America Reads Resource Collection when calling) or go to <http://www.nwrel.org/learns>.

- “Play on Paper” booklet

Contact the Montana Campus Compact (please reference the America Reads Resource Collection when calling) or go to <http://www.udel.edu/ETL/RWN/POPindex.html>.

## Did You Know?

- How many states have a Campus Compact affiliate office (e.g., **Montana** Campus Compact, etc...)?

[Hint: Oklahoma and Missouri have brand new state compact offices!]

Be the first to respond correctly by contacting Dean McGovern at (406) 243-5177 or via Email at [dean8@selway.umt.edu](mailto:dean8@selway.umt.edu) and receive a fantastic prize from MTCC!

Thanks to last month’s winner, Neoma Nelson-Daniels, MSU-Bozeman, for her quick response!

## Quotes to Inspire You

✍ This country will not be a good place for us to live in unless we make it a good place for all of us to live in – Theodore Roosevelt

✍ Human progress in neither automatic nor inevitable... This is not time for apathy or complacency. This is a time for vigorous positive action – Martin Luther King, Jr.

## Happy Birthday To...

The following individuals celebrated birthdays during the month of December:

Courtney Barnes, Montana State University-Bozeman

Eric Boyd, Montana State University-Northern

Jason Boyd, Montana State University-Northern

Lance Boyd, Montana State University-Northern

Polly Rhodes, Western Montana College of the UM

Sabrina Stanger, Montana State University-Northern

The following individuals are celebrating birthdays during the month of January:

Molly Collins, Flathead Valley Community College

Cheryl Eslami, The University of Montana

Ashley Greene, MSU-Bozeman

## **How About You?**

Do you have any resources, success stories, breaking news from your campus, trivia, quotes, or other tid-bits to share? We **ALL** want to hear from you! If so, please send your submission to:

The Montana Campus Compact

**302 University Hall**

**Missoula, MT 59812-3960**

**Phone (406) 243-5177**

**Fax (406) 243-5407**

Or send it electronically to:

**[dean8@selway.umt.edu](mailto:dean8@selway.umt.edu)**

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