

# Compact Connects

The Newsletter of the Montana Campus Compact - January 2002

## **MTCC Breaking News...**

### **The Montana Campus Compact Partners with Missoula Youth Homes for a Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service**

The Montana Campus Compact (MTCC), a statewide non-profit organization that supports campus-based public service, has received a \$2500 Martin Luther King, Jr. Service Day Grant from the Corporation for National Service. On January 21, 2002 MTCC will partner with Missoula Youth Homes for a day of painting, patching, cultural diversity and reflection. The purpose of the grant is to mobilize more Americans to observe the Martin Luther King, Jr. federal holiday as a day of service in communities and to bring people together around the common focus of service to others.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Service Day - Pride in Missoula Youth Homes is a joint project between The Montana Campus Compact, Missoula Youth Homes and Student Cultural and Service Organizations from the University of Montana. Painting, patching, basic woodworking and maintenance will be performed by the youth and community volunteers in three of Missoula Youth Homes' group homes.

A reflection and learning component will also take place at the finish of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Service Day - Pride in Missoula Youth Homes. The Montana Campus compact will use community organizations and student cultural organizations from the University of Montana to promote reflection and learning about community service and cultural diversity. At the Reflection and Learning Component, the student cultural organizations will provide traditions from their cultures to share with the youth volunteers and to commemorate the life and spirit of Martin Luther King Jr.

For more information or if you would like to volunteer for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Service Day please contact Molly Collins at 243-5177 ext. 1

## **Around Montana...**

Welcome to The Montana Campus Compact!

The following organizations have been selected as  
2001-2002 Montana Campus Compact Community Partners

Community Partner (definition): An MTCC member organization that utilizes volunteers to serve

critical community needs in Montana. Community Partners is an MTCC Program working to expand volunteerism in Montana through linking scholarship with service. MTCC provides community based organizations volunteer training, technical assistance and Education Awards to meaningfully link community service and higher education.

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# Spotlight on Service



In honor of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service this month, and his active service in the civil rights movement, we are honoring another civil rights activist in this month's Spotlight on Service, Mrs. Rosa Parks.

## **Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott**

On the 1st of December 1955, Mrs. Rosa Parks, an African-American seamstress, was arrested in Montgomery, Alabama for not standing and letting a white bus rider take her seat.

It was an "established rule" in the American south (at that time) that African-American riders had to sit at the back of the bus. African-American riders were also expected to surrender their seat to a white bus rider if it was needed. When asked to move to let a white bus rider be seated Mrs. Parks refused. She did not argue and she did not move. The police were called and Mrs. Parks was arrested.

Mrs. Parks was not the first African-American to be arrested for this "crime." But she was the first to be arrested who was well know in the Montgomery African-American community. She was once the secretary to the president of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People).

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery. He and other African-American community leaders felt a protest of some kind was needed. A meeting was called and an overflowing crowd came to the church to hear his words. Dr. King told the crowd that the only way they could fight back would be to boycott the bus company.

On the morning of Dec. 5, the African-American residents of the city refused to use the buses. Most walked, those few with cars arranged rides for friends and strangers, some even rode mules. Only a very small number of African-Americans rode the bus that day.

Dr. King and the other African-American community leaders held another meeting to organize future action. They named their organization the Montgomery Improvement Association and elected Dr. King as its president.

As the boycott continued the white community fought back with terrorism and harassment. The car-pool drivers were arrested for picking up hitchhikers. African-Americans waiting on street corners for a ride were arrested for loitering.

On January 30, 1956 Dr. King's home was bombed. His wife and their baby daughter escaped without injury. When Dr. King arrived home he found an angry mob waiting. Dr. King told the crowd to go home.

"We must learn to meet hate with love" he said.

The boycott continued for over a year. It eventually took the United States Supreme Court to end the boycott. On November 13, 1956 the Court declared that Alabama's state and local laws requiring segregation on buses were illegal. On December 20th federal injunctions were served on the city and bus company officials forcing them to follow the Supreme Court's ruling.

The following morning, December 21, 1956, Dr. King and Rev. Glen Smiley, a white minister, shared the front seat of a public bus. The boycott had lasted 381 days.

The boycott was a success.

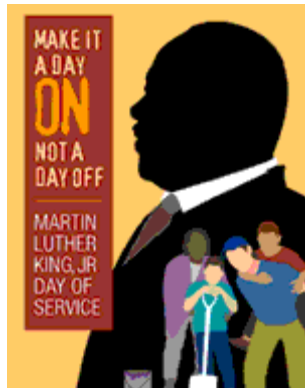
**"Government by itself can't make a community strong. Our role in government is to nurture and support the existing assets and resources in a community"**

**- Stephen Goldsmith  
Chairman for the Board of Directors of the  
Corporation for National Service**

# Civic Engagement Tip



- Quoted from [www.mlkdir.org](http://www.mlkdir.org)



On January 21, 2002 Americans across the country will celebrate the national holiday honoring the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. As they have since 1994, thousands of Americans will remember Dr. King by serving in their communities-- by making the holiday "a day ON, not a day off."

During his lifetime, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. sought to forge the common ground on which people from all walks of life could join together as equals to address important

community issues. Service, he realized, was the great equalizer. As he once said, "Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve."

This January you can be great because you can serve! Join thousands of Americans across the country who are honoring the life and work of Dr. King by serving their community on the King holiday.

Check out [http://www.mlkdir.org/](http://www.mlkdir.org) ! This Web site will help you find out how to serve. Or give you tips for creating and enhancing a service project of your own.

## Resource Roundup



Wondering what you are going to do with your Spring Break this year? How about an "Alternative Spring Break"? Take a fun trip while performing volunteer work for another community! Contact the following campuses who are sponsoring Alternative Breaks this year:

**Montana State University - Bozeman**

Office of Community Involvement

Kathy Tanner

406-994-0211

**University of Montana - Missoula**

Office for Civic Engagement

Amy Esp

406-243-4442

## **Citizenship Competency Corner**

### **The Secret to a Motivated Workforce**

-by Jason Gracia

<http://www.motivation123.com>

In order to have your people come into the office with direction and focus, you must help them to develop goals. They are one of the most important factors to an employee's success, which in turn brings you and the company success.

#### **STAGE 1: THE PLAN**

I know what you're thinking, 'Not another meeting!' Although they are overused and at times ineffective, your goal planning session will prove to be time well spent. Gather your group together and give each individual a sheet of paper and a pen

The first thing you must do is to get the main problem out there in the open. It may be a sales slump, a quality issue, or a lack of productivity. Whatever it is, make sure they understand what they are there for.

Once the main goal is established, it's time to brainstorm. Many meetings have been held with one or two vocal people running the entire thing, while the others sit and listen. To ensure that everyone gets their ideas heard, try the 'Round Robin' technique.

This is simply taking turned going around the table to hear each employees ideas on the subject at hand. As each one gives their opinions, you write it on a main paper or chalkboard for everyone to see. At this stage, no one should argue a point or idea, anything goes.

#### **STAGE 2: EDIT**

After a while of this brainstorming technique, you should have quite a few ideas. Too many, in fact. It's now time to dissect the list and grab the golden nuggets. Each idea should be discussed and then kept or discarded.

Again, you could make use of the 'Round Robbin' technique to make sure everyone gets a chance to be heard. Some of the best ideas will come from your quietest people.

### **STAGE 3: CHOOSE A PATH**

When you have discussed the strong and weak points of each item, choose three or less to look into further. You can assign an item to a sub-group, or to the group as a whole.

The sub-group or main group should then create a detailed plan of action for the chosen goal. This must be specific, time sensitive, and achievable. As work is being accomplished, have the groups check in with you, on a set schedule, to report progress, obstacles, or suggestions for improvement.

Without goals in your organization, you will have a very difficult time getting to where you want to be. Use the steps above, make goals part of your daily vocabulary, and enjoy the success and wealth they bring!

To the first person who answers this Trivia Question correctly:

Martin Luther King, Jr. is often referred to as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In what subject did Dr. King earn his doctorate?

Be the first person to e-mail us at [mtccinfo@yahoo.com](mailto:mtccinfo@yahoo.com) and the T-shirt is yours!



**Congratulations to last month's winner -  
Deb Bergeson-Graham from  
Rocky Mountain College**

Compact Connects is a publication of  
The Montana Campus Compact.

Do you have news, photos or announcements that you  
would like published in the next Compact Connects?

Please contact MTCC at (406) 243-5177 or e-mail us at  
[mtccinfo@yahoo.com](mailto:mtccinfo@yahoo.com).

