



# Compact Connects

The Newsletter of the Montana Campus Compact • May 2001

## MTCC Breaking News....

### NEW COMMUNITY SERVICE SCHOLARSHIPS NOW AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS AT MONTANA COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

The Montana Campus Compact is pleased to offer two new scholarships to students who have demonstrated outstanding involvement in their communities. Proceeds from the Compact's first ever fundraising event, "Icebreaker: A Celebration of Service," have been used to establish two scholarships of \$500 each. The scholarships will be awarded on Monday, May 21, 2001 at the Ceremony for Civic Engagement in Helena at the Helena College of Technology.

Scholarship applications are now available on-line at [www.umt.edu/mtcompact](http://www.umt.edu/mtcompact); by e-mailing The Montana Campus Compact at [MTCCinfo@yahoo.com](mailto:MTCCinfo@yahoo.com); or by calling the Compact at (406) 243-5177.

**"We are proud to offer these new scholarships to students who go above and beyond the call of duty by exhibiting exceptional service to Montana's communities," said Dean McGovern, Executive Director of The Montana Campus Compact. "We are especially pleased at how many Montana businesses and individuals have shown their immense support of our college volunteers – only through their generous donations are these scholarships possible."**

All undergraduate and graduate students at The Montana Campus Compact's fifteen member institutions around Montana are eligible for the cash awards. These are the first scholarships The Montana Campus Compact has ever awarded based on past service work; until now, MTCC's financial aid and educational awards have been awarded to students and faculty members who have proposed service activities that MTCC has in turn funded. The Montana Campus Compact will make these scholarships available every spring and award them at the annual Ceremony for Civic Engagement in May.

Funds for the scholarships were raised through sponsorships from many Montana companies, event ticket sales, and auction item purchases at the “Icebreaker: A Celebration of Service.” The “Icebreaker” was held on March 3, 2001, at the Elks Lodge in Missoula and was attended by more than 200 guests, including MTCC board members, educators and students from around the state. The evening included speeches by MTCC Board Co-Chair and UM President George Dennison, Grizzly wide receiver Jimmy Farris, and KPAX-TV news anchor Buddy Blankenfeld; a silent auction of gifts and services donated by businesses across Montana; live entertainment by Bob Wire and the Fencemenders and emcee Nate Schweber of UM’s KBGA; displays about service activities from colleges and universities around Montana; and food and dancing. Sponsors of the event were:

**Major** **Sponsor:**  
The Montana Power Company

**Partnering** **Sponsors:**  
Big Bear Sign Co.\*; Big Sky Brewing Co.; The Blackfoot Companies; DoubleTree Hotel Missoula \*; Enterprise Rent-A-Car\*; Kinko’s \*; Missoula Federal Credit Union; Missoula Independent \*; MTiSystems, Inc.; St. Patrick Hospital and Health Sciences Center

**General** **Sponsors:**  
Allegra Print and Imaging\*; Campus Inn \*; C’mon Inn\*; Community Medical Center; D.A. Davidson & Co.; Details Hair Design; Insty-Prints \*; Lambros Real Estate; Office City; Opportunity Resources\*; Quick Copy\*  
**\*In-kind sponsor**

## **Around Montana....**

**MTCC HEADQUARTERS – Josh Vanek has accepted the position as VISTA Program Manager.** Josh comes to us from his not-so-distant post as VISTA Leader for The Montana Campus Compact. Prior to this past year with us, Josh was a Peace Corps Volunteer stationed in Ventspils, Latvia where he taught English as a second language. He is a Washington native but has spent several years in Montana including time earning a degree in political science from The University of Montana-Missoula. Congratulations Josh!

**The MTCC would also like to congratulate the following AmeriCorps VISTA members** who started their one-year term of service this April. Coming from across the United States, with diverse backgrounds and interests, the seven VISTA members share a common goal of helping our communities by strengthening service infrastructures at institutions of higher education across the state of Montana. Molly Collins – MTCC Headquarters, Jessica McCrossin – MTCC Headquarters, Shelly St. Romain – MTCC Headquarters, Camille Larsen – Bozeman, Reed Mandelko – Missoula, Lynda Vande Sandt – Havre and Linda Watkins – Butte.

**BOZEMAN – Camille Larsen is working to establish a Service Learning Center on the MSU-Bozeman campus.** She has met with the United Way of Bozeman and the Human Resource Development Council to get an idea of how community needs are presently being met. The local agencies have been very helpful and Camille is making great progress

**BUTTE** – Linda Watkins is conducting a feasibility study for an office of community service on the Montana Tech of the U of M campus. She has held several interviews with faculty, staff and students and is making great progress. Through her discussions with key people on campus and in the community, Linda is discovering elements of their shared vision of the finalized academic program. The Community Service Center has been under discussion for several years and Linda is optimistic about a successful outcome for this project.

**HAVRE** – Linda Vande Sandt has given several presentations in classes at MSU-Northern to promote community service and service learning on campus. She is also working on two grants; one is a grant for the Sweet Grass Society to fund their annual Pow-Wow. The other is for the Havre Heritage Museum Foundation, who needs funds for their general operating expenses and building renovations.

**MISSOULA** – Reed Mandelko is creating an asset map of Missoula in order to get an assessment of the needs of the youth community. He is also contacting organizations around the city that provide activities for children during non-school hours and entering those services into a databank. Ultimately all the information will be integrated into a graphical display of Missoula in order to gain a better understanding of the geographical distribution of services available to kids in different areas of the city.

## Spotlight on Service

### 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL NATIVE AMERICAN YOUTH SERVICE DAY

On Saturday April 28, 2001 approximately 100 Blackfeet Indians and 50 AmeriCorps members from across the state of Montana gathered in Browning, Montana to participate in the fourth annual Native American Youth Service Day. This community service day, started by the Blackfeet Youth Initiative, is an opportunity for Native American youth to come together and make a difference in their community.

There were several different service projects for participants to choose from, such as painting murals, trash clean up, painting prevention signs and painting basketball courts and playgrounds. Molly Collins, MTCC \*VISTA Leader had this to say, “**The kids had a great time and were covered in paint by the end of the afternoon. We came home on Saturday night exhausted but very excited at the work the Browning community members and youth did to improve their community. I can't wait to go back next year.**”

After the projects were finished everyone joined together for “The March of Volunteers” through the streets of Browning. The March ended at the Browning Middle School where there were activities for the kids, delicious barbecue and a Traditional Native American Round Dance.

“**Our hope and desire for this day is to bring our community together to make it a safer and cleaner place. We want to encourage the youth to step up and take ownership of their community and realize the importance of contributing and bringing about positive change,**” said Vernon Marceau from the Blackfeet Youth Initiative. “**We want to make a difference and show that we care about our community.**”

# Civic Engagement Tip



## *Did you celebrate Earth Day on April 22?*

Well, If you missed the big celebration all hope is not lost. Just remember the poignant words of Josh Vanek in his MTCC\*VISTA Manifesto, “There’s no wrong time to rally people behind your cause”. So, starting today, why not make every day Earth Day? Here are a few tips to help you get started.

- Bring your own cloth tote bag to the grocery store to avoid the age-old “paper or plastic?” dilemma
- Washing your clothes in warm or cold water (rather than hot) can reduce carbon dioxide emissions by up to 500 pounds per year
- Keep the idling on your car to 30 seconds or less and everyone will be breathing easier
- Go to <http://www.environmental.org/> and click on the leaf – site sponsors donate money with each click to purchase and save rainforest land, thus reducing global warming.
- Become more educated on environmental issues such as household waste management, toxins, clean air and more by visiting <http://www.epa.gov/epapages/earthday/resources.htm>

# Citizenship Competency Corner

Every year The Montana Campus Compact awards distinguished Faculty Fellowships to scholars at MTCC member institutions. The Fellowships support service-learning, a teaching method which combines genuine community service with academic learning. This year Dr. Maxine Jacobson, assistant Professor of Social Work at The University of Montana has collaborated with Dr. Judy Smith, founder of Women's Opportunity and Resource Development, Inc., on a project that investigates the struggles of welfare recipients for access to post-secondary education. Students in Jacobson and Smith's course have compiled information on post-secondary education, and conduct panel discussions of stakeholders including welfare recipients, Health and Human Service employees and other welfare rights activists. Students also presented their findings to the Montana State Legislature in 2001 concerning there authorization of welfare policy (TANF)



Are you looking to make service a lifelong career? Check out these valuable web site resources to spur your search on!

- X <http://www.allianceonline.org/>
- X <http://www.philanthropy.com/>
- X <http://www.essential.org/goodworks>
- X <http://www.nonprofitcareer.com/>
- X <http://www.nptimes.com/>
- X <http://www.npxpress.com/>
- X <http://www.opportunitynocs.org/>
- X <http://www.energizeinc.com/>

**"He who has begun has half done. Dare to be wise; begin."**

**- Horace**

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2000-2001 LEARN AND SERVE STUDENT FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS

- **University of Montana** Wildlife Biology major, Jason Karp will design and construct a bicycle powered weed cultivator.
- **Montana Tech** Environmental Engineering and Occupational Safety and Health student, Kelda Hendrickson will assess the presence of lead paint and the lighting problems in the Butte Family YMCA.
- Mark Mystic, Industrial Trades student at **Flathead Valley Community College** will begin a campus chapter of Habitat for Humanity.
- **Flathead Valley Community College** Early Childhood Development student, Patricia Drane will secure funding to support a Youth Leadership Camp for at-risk youth in the Flathead Valley.
- **Blackfeet Community College** Construction Technology student Ronald CalfBossRibs will construct a boardwalk leading to an outdoor science classroom.
- Psychology student Todd Baker at **Montana State University – Bozeman** is conducting a book discussion group with residents at a local retirement home.
- Deb LaTray, Community Services student at **Montana State University – Northern** is conducting a survey of all the high school students on the Fort Belknap Indian reservation to evaluate how they feel about their communities.



*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).

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