

Compact Connects

October 2000

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MTCC Breaking News...

News from the State Office

The Montana Campus Compact (MTCC) is making changes at the headquarters office! In an effort to more effectively provide services and resources for MTCC member institutions, Arnold Bighorn, our new AmeriCorps Program Manager, and Therese Hetzel, our new Service-Learning Program Manager have joined the headquarter staff.

Arnold comes to us from Cherish our Indian Children, Inc. where he worked as their Welfare Reform Coordinator. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Work from The University of Montana-Missoula. His higher education experience includes working with the High Plains Rural Systemic Initiative at Fort Peck Community College in Poplar, MT. Arnold will be primarily responsible for administering MTCC's AmeriCorps grant and managing the Montana Campus Corps and Montana Reads programs. Therese received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Loyola University in New Orleans and received her Masters degree in Social Work from Washington University in St. Louis. Therese came to Montana in 1996 with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps and served as a community organizer for low-income Montanans with Montana Peoples Action. In addition, she has worked with Missoula Aging Services where she managed a state-funded grant to develop an Information and Assistance Network with all of the Area Agencies on Aging. Therese will be primarily responsible for administering MTCC's Service-Learning grant and managing the Montana Faculty Fellowship and Montana Student Fellowship programs.

Both Arnold and Therese will be making their first network appearance at the MTCC Student Development Fall Retreat in October. They can be reached by calling (406) 243-5177, or you can email them at arnieb@selway.umt.edu & thetzel@selway.umt.edu respectively. Please join us in welcoming them to MTCC!

News from around the State

There have been some recent changes in The Montana Campus Compact leadership. Mike Rao, Chancellor at MSU-Northern, has left our Board of Directors after taking a position at Central Michigan University. Alex Capdeville remains on the Board but has left his deanship at Helena College of Technology and taken over as Chancellor of MSU-

Northern. We proudly welcome Rick Gray as our newest member of the Board. He has accepted the dean position vacated by Capdeville at Helena College of Technology. We should have information regarding the new president of MSU-Bozeman by the next issue of Compact Connects.

The Montana Campus Compact is happy to introduce the 2000-2001 class of Montana Faculty Fellows:

- ◆ Dr. Kevin Brown, Montana State University-Northern
- ◆ Dr. Barry Browne, Montana Tech of The University of Montana
- ◆ Dr. Maxine Jacobson, The University of Montana
- ◆ Dr. Christine Kowalski and Ms. Jamyne Richardson, Montana State University College of Technology-Great Falls
- ◆ Dr. Marvin D. L. Lansverk, Montana State University-Bozeman
- ◆ Dr. William Macgregor, Montana Tech of The University of Montana
- ◆ Dr. Patrick Moore, University of Great Falls
- ◆ Dr. Donna Zook, University of Great Falls

Special Events: “Study Groups, Sacrifices, and Strong Coffee: Creating the Engaged College Student”

The Governor’s Conference on Civic Engagement will bring together those in the state who have shown commitment to civic involvement and public service in a forum to exchange ideas and develop skills. The Montana Campus Compact is interested in recognizing the public service efforts of Montana’s students by sponsoring its first-ever writing contest! The contest is a chance for current and former students of Montana’s universities and colleges to talk about their experiences with community service and be recognized for their efforts. The deadline for papers has been extended until October 13, 2000! Three winners will receive free admission to the entire Governor’s Conference on Civic Engagement along with some really great gifts. In addition, they will have the opportunity to share their experiences of making the grade and working for change with a captive audience. Finally, they will have a chance to meet Stephen Ambrose and hear him speak about his best-selling book, Undaunted Courage, in a special invitation-only event. Winners will be announced on October 18, 2000—Good Luck to everyone!

Spotlight on Service

CAMP SKY CHILD, submitted by UGF Team Leader, Shelley Clark

The summer of 1998 is one that will always be a highlight in my memory. It was that summer that I worked for Camp Sky Child, which is a camp for children who have a parent or close relative in the criminal justice system. There were sixty kids who attended the camp that was held at Camp Thunderbird, outside of Helena. The camp offers a time for these kids to be treated with respect and dignity and to be embraced for who they are. They are exposed to many experiences that they otherwise may never have, such as camping, horseback riding, fishing, etc. It is the only camp in the nation that is exclusively for these kids.

I eagerly accepted my position as pod leader (counselor) of the 6 & 7 year old girls. Before the camp, I channeled my excitement into planning and preparing to ensure that this camp would be a pleasant and valuable experience for the girls put in my charge. However, starting with the first day of camp my agenda began to take a nose-dive. I had seven girls in my cabin, but there was one, from the moment we met, that would constantly challenge my words, actions, and motives. When Arial stepped of the bus, she was sure to let me know she was in charge. But as the week progressed, Arial and I took a journey that changed both of us. Arial learned that she could and should make choices, that she is not the victim of life that she so easily portrayed. She learned that there are some people worth trusting, those that will stand on what they say. She also began to understand that there are some people who are willing to take a risk to tend to her cares and concerns.

Throughout the week I felt myself being stretched emotionally, physically, mentally, and spiritually. I had to improvise many times when the other pod leader assigned to our cabin failed to do what was expected of the camp counselors. I had to be mediator and judge when my campers verbally and physically attacked each other. I even had to delouse three of the girls when it was discovered they had head lice. At the end of the week I went home exhausted of my resources and burdened that many of the kids from camp would be going home to less than favorable conditions.

I shared my camp experiences with and burden for these kids with my Campus-based Supervisor, Twila Halmes. Together we brainstormed about a mentoring program that would follow up on the kids from Camp Sky Child. That was the conception of the Beyond the Circle mentoring project. Since then, a core team of community partners has been put together to establish the policies and procedures of the project, a \$10,000 grant was received from the Transition Center in Great Falls, and in August applications started being accepted for mentors and mentees. In October of 2000, the project will begin group mentoring with around 50 kids. Then in the spring of 2001, we will be pairing up the kids with college students for a one-on-one mentoring relationship. Two new Campus Corps Members, Risha McCormack and Lorie Hasner, have been assigned to continue to oversee this wonderful and very worthwhile project. The AmeriCorps motto is "Getting things done", but more importantly it's the lives we touch in that process that really counts!

Civic Engagement Tip

Volunteer today, vote tomorrow! As leaders in service, the work we do to help bring about needed change in our communities is very important. Also equally important is voting! Let's not forget how we can help shape and change our communities at the ballot box. Voting is a very easy way to participate in our democracy. Are you registered to vote? If you have moved, or have never registered to vote, now is your chance! The deadline for registering is one month prior to elections in Montana. To register to vote:

- Visit your County Clerk and Recorder's office
- Fill out the voter registration card in your phone book and drop it in the mail
- Visit www.dnt.org or www.montana.com/lwvmt to register online!

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan group dedicated to furthering political participation. They maintain a website full of information about local and national candidates. If you'd like to learn more about who's running before Election Day in November, jump on www.montana.com/lwvm

The League of Women Voters also sponsors the "Take a Friend to Vote" campaign. Check out all the details on their website www.lwv.org and pledge to take a friend to the ballot box this November!

Interested in knowing which candidates share your values and viewpoints? Point your mouse to www.selectsmart.com, a website that surveys your opinions and matches those responses with the candidates that agree most, or visit www.votesmart.net to learn about candidates and become an informed voter. Let your computer do the work—you may be surprised by what you find!

Resource Roundup

Find out everything you need to know to pull off a fantastic Make-a-Difference-Day in your own community! Make-a-Difference-Day is a national day of service sponsored by USA Today. Millions of people across the country get together on this day to celebrate and engage in service to their communities. Check out this comprehensive online resource at www.usaweekend.com/diffday/index.html

Tutor Recruitment Ideas: lots of recruitment strategies and tactics for those of you recruiting America Reads tutors are available by calling The Montana Campus Compact at 243-5175! Please reference the America Reads Resource Collection when calling.

Tutor Training Information:

➤ MOSAICA Training Briefs—a 2-page newsletter chock full of training ideas and tips. Contact The Montana Campus Compact at 243-5175 (please reference the America Reads Resource Collection when calling) or contact MOSAICA at (202) 887-0620 or visit their website at mosaica@mosaica.org

➤ Check out this helpful training website (lots of icebreakers and energizers)—
www.books.mcgrawhill.com/training/toolchest/games

Citizenship Competency Corner

Changing Attitudes, Providing Skills, and Developing Knowledge!

MTCC is committed to developing responsible, active, and engaged citizens among our student participants. We know that our current students form the foundations for our communities now and in the years to come. In each of the following newsletters, we will showcase a participant who has a story to share about making citizenship a part of everyday life. Below are the seven Citizenship Competencies our programs focus on:

- ✓ **Civic Responsibility**~striving to be a well-rounded engaged citizen during beyond the college years
- ✓ **Commitment**~balancing priorities, being reliable, and following through
- ✓ **Communication Skills**~working through interpersonal conflicts, listening, and articulating oneself
- ✓ **Problem Solving**~dealing with the unexpected and viewing challenges as opportunities
- ✓ **Leadership**~showing initiative, making sound decisions, and utilizing the skills of the team
- ✓ **Teamwork**~establishing trust, recognizing diversity, and capitalizing on group synergy
- ✓ **Technical Skills**~Using organizational skills to rebuild our communities

Did You Know?

✂ The Montana Campus Compact was founded in what year?

Be the first to respond correctly by contacting Laura Hassler at (406) 243-5177 or via email at laurah@selway.umt.edu and receive a fantastic prize from MTCC!

Quotes to Inspire You

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”—Margaret Mead

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:

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Missoula, MT 59812-3960

Phone (406) 243-5177

Fax (406) 243-2797

Or send it electronically to:

laurah@selway.umt.edu

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