



Compact Connects

The Newsletter of the Montana Campus Compact -
September 2001

MTCC Breaking News...

BUILDING ENGAGED CITIZENS: *A Montana Campus Compact Retreat for Students and Campus Leaders*

The Montana Campus Compact will be holding a three day retreat, September 28-30, 2001 at the Lubrecht Experimental Forest in Greenough, Montana. Campus Corps members, MTCC VISTA members, MTCC Bonner Fellows, Montana Student Leaders and Campus Based Supervisors are all invited to attend. The retreat will offer workshops in many areas including: Volunteer Recruitment, Leadership Style Training, Personal Goal Setting and Project Sustainability.

The goal of the retreat is to give students and campus leaders the skills and tools they will need in order to complete successful projects during the 2001-2002 school year. The weekend is sure to be full of exciting and useful workshops, including our keynote speaker Wendy Bay Lewis. Ms. Lewis has her JD from Arizona State University and is founder of TheCivicMind.com (<http://www.civicmind.com>). Previous key notes include such topics as Teaching Civics to the Internet Generation and Understanding Civic Engagement in the 21st Century.

Around Montana...

Montana Campus Corps Members are college students at MTCC member institutions, connect their campuses to local communities by coordinating service initiatives and engaging fellow students. The 2001-2002 Montana Campus Corps Program will have 11 Team Leaders, 55 part-time members, and 10 Education Award Only members. Members will work on the following projects during the 2001-2002 school year.

Improving Math and Science

In 1993, an average of 73% of the students attending Blackfeet reservation schools tested below the proficiency level in math and an average of 64% below the proficiency level in science. 3 part-time Campus Corps members will work with the Blackfeet Math/Science Project to offer approximately 210 students (reservation-wide) and their families the opportunity to participate in hands-on, inquiry-based, math/science learning activities integrated with Blackfeet culture and modern day technology. Students involved in this project will increase their Iowa Basic Test of Skills scores by 5%.

Campus Corps Members for this project are students at *Blackfeet Community College*.

America Reads

To address low reading scores among Montana youth, 21 part-time Campus Corps members, 45 work study students, and 180 volunteers will coordinate and provide reading tutoring to 1500 K-9 students, resulting in improved ability to read at grade level in 60% of students and increased skills in 75%, as measured by Teacher Pre/

America Counts

Several elementary school children in Billings, Bozeman, Missoula, Pablo and Butte are underachieving in math. 7 part-time Campus Corps Members will coordinate and provide tutoring to 100 children resulting in 70% of those children performing at grade level by the end of the school year as indicated by Teacher Pre/Post Evaluations and Student Surveys.

Campus Corps Members for this project are students at the following schools:

Salish Kootenai College

Montana State University

Montana Tech of The University of Montana

University of Montana

Montana State University- Billings

Habitat for Humanity

Montana ranks 46th in the nation for the average total personal income. There is a lack of affordable housing with the average price of a home in Montana estimated at \$122,914. 4 part-time members and 1 summer member will serve with Habitat for Humanity to engage volunteers in building 10 new homes in 3 Montana communities.

Campus Corps Members for this project are students at the following schools:

University of Montana

Montana State University

Flathead Valley Community College

Family Involvement Project

In Montana, school personnel view parent involvement as a solution to low academic achievement. In the communities of Great Falls and Dillon 3 part-time members plus 20 volunteers will provide resources, activities, and family based workshops to 200 individuals, resulting in 65% of children whose family members participate demonstrating improved academic performance, as measured by IBTS scores and/or Teacher Pre/Post Surveys.

Campus Corps Members for this project are students at the following schools:

University of Great Falls

Western Montana College

Upward Bound

A Campus Corps member will coordinate activities for the Upward Bound program, encouraging first-generation high school students to stay in school and attend college. 1 part-time member and 4 summer positions will coordinate Upward Bound activities, engaging 10 college students to serve as tutors and mentors with the activities. 50% of those participating in Upward Bound (30 youth) will maintain a 2.5 GPA and 70% of participating students will complete high school as measured by program/school records.

Campus Corps Members for this project are students at *Montana Tech of The University of Montana.*

Tutoring Native American Middle School Students

To address the educational needs of underachieving Native American middle school students in Great Falls, 4 part-time members and 6 volunteers will provide academic tutoring to 80 Native American Middle School students. The tutoring will

result in improved academic performance in 56 students, grade level attainment, and for 28 students, a decrease in the point differential between their test scores and those of their non-native peers, as measured by Teacher Pre/Post Assessments. Campus Corps Members for this project are students at *The University of Great Falls*.

Flagship Mentoring Program

To address the lack of interest in academics among Missoula's youth, 2 part-time members, and 80 volunteers will provide one-on-one tutoring and community service projects resulting in 70% (35) students and 75% (150) students showing an increase in school attendance, heightened interest/achievement in academics.

Campus Corps Members for this project are students at *The University of Montana*.

YWCA Mentoring Program

Each year in Missoula there are approximately 12- children from abusive homes who participate in the YWCA programs. A Campus Corps member will coordinate structured activities and group counseling for children and youth (up to age 16) from abusive homes after school and in the evenings at the YWCA shelter, resulting in 75% (56) of the children showing a decrease in stress-related behaviors (including violence), and an increase in emotional well-being, as measured by staff assessments and parental reports.

Campus Corps Members for this project are students at *The University of Montana*.

[On to next page](#)