

# Montana Center for Inclusive Education at Montana State University Billings

Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Report  
July 1, 2021—June 30, 2022



The vision of the Montana Center for Inclusive Education (MCIE) is the creation of a fully inclusive society that values diversity. The mission supporting this vision states that MCIE serves the diverse population of Montana and provides continuing professional development opportunities for educators and direct service providers. MCIE also provides grant management and fiscal management for the Montana State University Billings (MSUB). MCIE is not funded through tuition income.

The programs of the MCIE include:

- Extended Campus
- Hearing Conservation Program
- Montana Regional Education Service Area III
  - Indian Education for All
  - Region III Comprehensive System of Personnel Development
  - State Personnel Development Grant
- Movin' On in Montana
- OPI Special Education Endorsement Project
- Work Incentives Planning and Assistance Program
- Evaluation of the Office of Public Instruction - State Personnel Development Grant through the US Dept. of Education to Implement the Montana Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)
- Developed the beneficiary satisfaction surveys for the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, Vocational Rehabilitation Services to drive program improvement.
- Partnered with the University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning to grow the Montana Strategic Instruction Model through support by the Educational Promise Foundation

## Faculty Award for Exceptional Support of Students with Disabilities

### Sarah Friedman



Assistant Professor of Earth Science  
Dept. of Biological and Physical Sciences

The nomination for Sarah Friedman, detailed how, "Her actions show that she truly cares about her students ... she told everybody in the class that she does not want us to fail." He went on to say that Dr. Friedman was determined to meet his educational goals and has been a "big contributor to my life-changing journey."

### Charity Dewing



Part-time Instructor  
Dept. of English, Philosophy, and Modern

The nomination for Charity Dewing noted that, "There is no greater feeling than having a professor that you know in your heart wants you to succeed." This was even more important to the student than the fact that Ms. Dewing worked with Disability Support Service to arrange accommodations. She went on to describe how Ms. Dewing encouraged and believed in her "when the semester was so heavy."

### MSUB Collaboration

- College of Allied Health Professions and Science
- College of Education
- College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
- Disability Support Services
- Extended Campus at City College
- Grants & Sponsored Programs
- Neurodiversity Institute

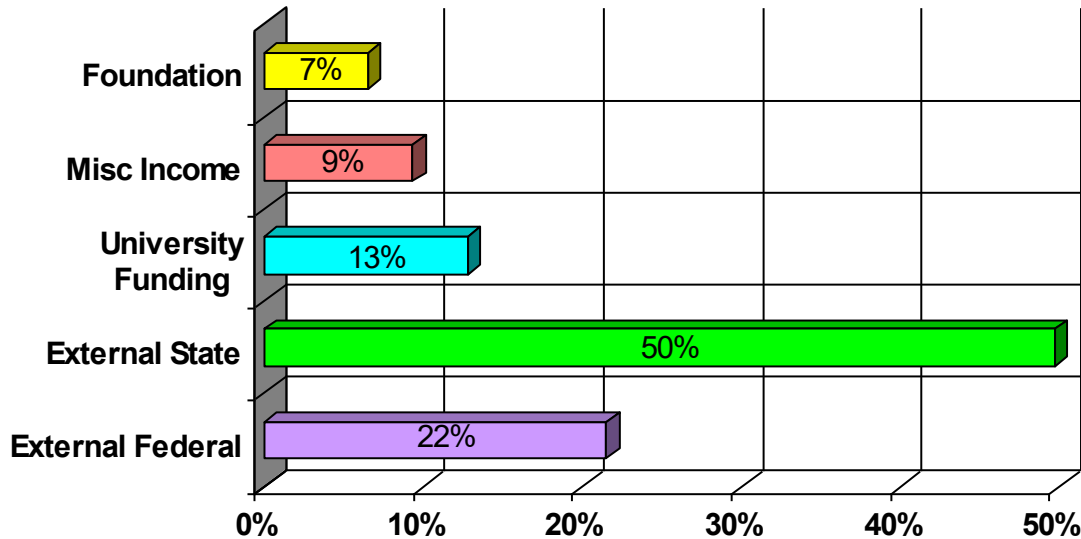
### Faculty Collaboration

- Dr. Aaron Mertes with Montana Regional Education Service Area III and Comprehensive System of Personnel Development.
- Dr. Susan Gregory with the Special Education Endorsement Project

The Institute for Neurodiversity and Applied Behavior Analysis has opened its doors to serve neurodiverse children in Billings and the surrounding communities! The Institute specializes in Applied Behavior Analysis with a goal to create optimal treatment programs that are individualized per the needs of each person, while providing a unique training site for MSUB students to gain clinical experience. The Institute has started accepting clients for its Early Intensive Behavioral Intervention Program which will serve children from 18 months to 6 years old. The Institute's Social Skills program serves children from 7 to 12 years who struggle with navigating their social environment, and has already had a successful first session this summer.

The Social Skills program has also partnered across departments within the university to encourage the involvement of various MSUB students.

## Montana Center for Inclusive Education Financial Report



- **Foundation: 79,642.33**

The MCIE utilized the Endowment interest to partially fund year three of its pilot project, Movin' On in Montana. The endowment interest was also utilized to fund ten student scholarships and two faculty awards.

- **Miscellaneous Income: \$114,144**

Miscellaneous income includes Montana Vocational Rehabilitation and Blind Services, University of Kansas consulting, SPDG, and Extended Campus fees.

- **University Funding: \$156,415.**

University funding appropriated to MCIE by the state legislature and allocated by the Board of Regents. MCIE receives a percentage of the facilities and administrative costs charged to each grant and contract written or administered by the Center.

- **External State Funding: \$607,090**

State funding received from the Department of Public Health and Human Services, Murdock Foundation, and the Montana Office of Public Instruction.

- **External Federal Funding: \$263,170**

Federal funding received from the Social Security Administration.

## Highlights of Fiscal Year 2021

- Eight proposals were submitted to state and federal agencies. All but one were funded.
- Movin' On in Montana is partially funded by the Montana Center Foundation and partially funded by the Department of Public Health and Human Services.
- The Montana Office of Public Instruction's Special Education Endorsement Project worked with 35 teachers in Montana. In Fiscal Year 2021 eight teachers in the project received their special education endorsement.
- Work Incentives Planning and Assistance Program (WIPA) received 282 new referrals for July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. Of these new referrals, 37 individuals were transition age youth, 23 were veterans, 166 were working part-time, and 28 were working full-time. WIPA initiated intensive individualized services to 243 clients in Montana and Idaho.
- Region III Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD) offered 39 professional development activities that were attended by 1,085 service providers, school personnel, and teachers-in-preparation. In addition, Region III CSPD provided 80 scholarships for service providers, school personnel and high school students to attend thirteen professional development activities offered by other professional development providers.
- The Montana Regional Education Service Area III (MRESA3) offered 13 professional development activities that were attended by 429 service providers, school personnel, and teachers-in-preparation.
- Ten scholarships totaling \$9,500 were awarded to ten students with disabilities at Montana State University Billings. Two \$500 scholarships were awarded to two faculty/staff members nominated by MSUB students with disabilities.

## Future Priorities

- Increase the amount of the Faculty Award for Exceptional Support of Students with Disabilities
- MCIE Apply for funding opportunities that support the vision and mission.
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- Provide professional development to schools and community organizations.
- Continue to strengthen our partnerships within the Montana University System.
- Reapply for the National Endowment for Humanities Grant, *The Battle of Little Bighorn and the Great Sioux War (1876)*.
- Continue to support the Institute for Neurodiversity and Applied Behavior Analysis at MSU Billings.