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To: [Wilcox, Shannon Lampe](#)
Subject: Update on the Coal Board's \$500K Grant for the Yellowstone Science and Allied Health Building
Date: Friday, February 9, 2018 3:25:41 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
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[image004.png](#)
[MEDIA RELEASE MSUB Yellowstone Science Building Project Obtains \\$500K in funding from the Montana Coal Board.msg](#)
Importance: High



Dear Campus Community,

I wanted to update you all on a new development with the Yellowstone Science and Allied Health Building. In January, the Montana Coal Board approved a MSUB Foundation proposal for \$500,000 (*see the attached PR for more details*).

On Monday, we were informed by the Coal Board's legal counsel that they made an error with the grant and were considering withdrawing the award. Their legal documents referenced the Administrative Rules of Montana indicating that MSU Billings did not meet these qualifications as a state agency.

We were surprised to receive this communication as our proposal was developed working with the appropriate parties, including the state and the Coal Board. The process took many months, multiple meetings, and went through great scrutiny, including public review.

Upon learning this news, the Foundation met with the Big Sky Economic Development to determine if they could serve as the appropriate local government authority acting on our behalf. Our prior proposal is now being put forth under the BSED name. BSED has a proven track record of acting as the eligible applicant entity (for funding opportunities) designed to springboard critical community projects into fruition.

The Coal Board called a special conference call meeting today to determine next steps. The majority of the board members expressed their disappointment that this technicality was not discovered by their legal representation earlier, and showed their continued support for the Yellowstone Science and Allied Health Building. In order to follow proper procedures, it was determined that the MSUB Foundation grant change to BSED would be first on their list for consideration at their next meeting on March 22.

Based on the great support we heard on today's call, we believe that the \$500,000 grant should stay in place and the Coal Board will vote in March to honor their commitment under this new arrangement.

Respectfully,



Interim Chancellor Ron Larsen

Go Yellowjackets!

Ron Larsen
Interim Chancellor



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