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University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "UM awarded \$1.2 million grant for Native American pharmacy program" (2009). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 21887. <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/newsreleases/21887>

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Sept. 4, 2009

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UM AWARDED \$1.2 MILLION GRANT FOR NATIVE AMERICAN PHARMACY PROGRAM

MISSOULA –

The Office of Student Services in the Skaggs School of Pharmacy at The University of Montana has been awarded a \$1.2 million grant to expand and establish programs for American Indian pharmacy students.

The grant by the Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services provides continuing support to UM's Native American Center of Excellence.

The NACOE program was developed to improve American Indian student academic performance and to provide opportunities for Indian faculty development.

Other program goals are:

- to be a central minority health education resource for students and faculty.
- to facilitate research opportunities for students and faculty on Indian health issues.
- to develop a Native American Health and Cultural Competency lecture series, providing students, faculty and professionals opportunities to learn about health care needs of minority groups.

- to provide cultural competency training for all faculty and staff in the Skaggs School of Pharmacy.

The NACOE program is headed by Lori Morin, assistant dean for Student Affairs, and Estella Anderson, director for pre-pharmacy advising. It also will establish a consortium of staff, faculty and researchers from UM-affiliated colleges and tribal colleges across the state, as well as a number of Montana organizations involved in health care.

The consortium's goal is to establish working relationships with community-based organizations, school districts, tribal colleges and other postsecondary schools to recruit Native students into UM's pharmacy program. Among U.S. pharmacy programs, the Skaggs School of Pharmacy currently enrolls the third-highest number of American Indian students.

For more information, visit <http://www.umt.edu/coe> or contact Morin, 406-243-4080, lori.morin@umontana.edu, or Anderson, 406-243-4029, estella.anderson@umontana.edu.

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