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University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**AREA TEACHERS RECEIVE TRAINING IN AIR POLLUTION SCIENCE**

**MISSOULA –**

High school teachers from **Belgrade, Butte** and **Missoula** recently received special science education training through the Air Toxics Under the Big Sky program at The University of Montana.

Sponsored by UM's Center for Environmental Health Sciences, the program aims to stimulate student interest in and research on air pollution. The program's research network connects UM scientists, dozens of teachers and hundreds of students from high schools, tribal colleges and universities across Montana, as well as the Nez Perce Reservation in Idaho and remote communities in Alaska.

The newest additions to the program are Kim Popham of Belgrade High School, Maureen Driscoll of Butte High School, Misty Cunningham of Butte Central High School and Brett Taylor of Sentinel High School in Missoula.

The 6-year-old Air Toxics Under the Big Sky program is designed to:

- bring student-based scientific inquiry into the classroom.
- provide mentoring opportunities for high school students to work alongside university scientists.
- give students real-world science experience using specialized equipment to investigate problems relevant to their daily lives.
- enhance students' analytical and communication skills by having them convey their research findings to others.

- encourage students to seek further education and careers in environmental and biomedical sciences.

UM hosts an annual Air Toxics Under the Big Sky research symposium each May.

Major funding support is provided by the Toyota USA Foundation and the National Center for Research Resources, part of the National Institutes of Health.

For more information, visit <http://www.umt.edu/cehs/airtox.html>.

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