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### UM researchers receive \$500,000 for tribal research partnership

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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Oct. 20, 2009

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**UM RESEARCHERS RECEIVE \$500,000  
FOR TRIBAL RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP**

**MISSOULA –**

The National Native Children's Trauma Center at The University of Montana has received federal funding for a new type of research partnership with Montana tribes.

The U.S. Department of Justice awarded the center a \$500,000 grant to initiate culturally based research methods in partnership with the Assiniboine and Sioux tribes of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation.

For the first time in their work with Montana tribes, NNCTC researchers will utilize a type of field research called community-based participatory research, in which local leaders initiate and direct research within their communities.

“Community-based participatory research allows NNCTC to be co-researchers with the tribes,” said Marilyn Bruguier-Zimmerman, center director. “Their leaders will guide and improve our work. The skills, leadership and cultural understanding our tribal leaders bring to this project are invaluable, and will help create trauma-informed systems that serve Fort Peck tribal youth.”

The partnership will examine community and cultural characteristics that increase resiliency and identity among Native children. Researchers also will investigate how adverse childhood experiences may impact substance abuse and academic performance.

Rick van den Pol, director of UM's Institute for Educational Research and Service, said: "This grant strengthens our partnerships with the Assiniboine and Sioux tribes. Now we can share resources with our tribal partners to raise the standard of care for children who experience traumatic events."

UM researchers and tribal leaders will create a research advisory board responsible for assembling a community research team to manage data collection, analysis and dissemination of findings.

Located at the Institute for Educational Research and Service, NNCTC is a category II Treatment and Service Adaptation Center. The center provides national expertise and community-based treatment responses to childhood trauma among American Indian and Alaska Native communities. For more information on the center's work, visit <http://www.nativechildrenstrauma.org>.

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