October 2019 news releases

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October 2019 News

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Workshop Examines Mining Impacts on Freshwater Ecosystems

October 31, 2019

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October, researchers from the University of Montana’s Flathead Lake Biological Station hosted a workshop focused on advancing the scientific knowledge of mining impacts on water quality and salmonid-bearing watersheds.

Thirty-nine science and policy experts from
Several academic institutions, state and federal agencies, indigenous governments, and NGOs gathered at the FLBS facilities in Yellow Bay to participate in the candid and collaborative workshop. Those in attendance included representatives from the western states of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Washington and the Canadian provinces of British Columbia and Ottawa.

For FLBS researchers Erin Sexton and Chris Sergeant, who co-organized the event, it was an opportunity to create strategies for ensuring that the best science is available for use in management decisions designed to minimize mining impacts to watersheds.

“The workshop and discussions far exceeded my expectations,” said Sexton. “Much of the success was due to the engagement and enthusiasm of the attendees, complemented by the awesome team and great environment and facilities at the Bio Station.”

The northwest region of North America is home to many of the continent’s least developed and most vibrant freshwater ecosystems. These lands also contain vast mineral deposits, and large areas have been marked by past, present and exploratory mining operations. Recent research has raised concern over the potential impacts of these mining operations on the freshwater ecosystems that cross over from Canada to the United States.

“The transboundary Flathead and Kootenai watersheds are tremendously valuable to Northwest Montana, to our water quality, fisheries, economies and tribes,” said Sexton. “Both rivers have been threatened by mining, and Chris and I wanted to create a workshop that would provide the space and time, with a highly qualified group of experts, to take a hard look at how science is informing the assessment of risk and impacts from these mines.”

Co-funded by the Wilburforce Foundation and Salmon-Net, a group dedicated to improving public access to science relevant to the conservation and management of Pacific Salmon, the workshop aimed to strengthen the connection between science and the environmental decision-making focusing specifically on reducing the impacts of mining on watersheds.

Upon their arrival, participants were greeted by FLBS Director Jim Elser and given a tour of the Bio Station facilities. Rich Janssen, Department Head of Natural Resources for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) then officially kicked off the workshop by welcoming the group to CSKT territory and orienting the workshop to the surrounding watershed.

For the next three days, attendees participated in a series of plenary talks and small group discussions geared toward identifying knowledge gaps, future policy and science research needs, and current obstacles hindering the use of the best available science.

“We received wonderful feedback on the diversity of the participants’ expertise and the structure of the workshop,” said FLBS researcher Chris Sergeant. “People are energized and already working on a number of important products stemming directly from this meeting. I think the biggest compliment we received is that people are committed to advancing this work over the next year or two.”

Future products resulting from the workshop will include two peer-reviewed scientific articles, the release of documented workshop proceedings, and the production of outreach materials designed to deliver key findings to watershed communities in a user-friendly format.
More importantly, organizers and participants hope that the workshop will create a lasting and cohesive network of practitioners who are dedicated to evaluating and addressing the risks and impacts of mining in salmonid-bearing watersheds.

“Many people, from community members to government officials, are asking what they need to know about mining impacts to rivers,” Sergeant said. “If we can arm people with the knowledge present in the room last week, that will be a big win for the special rivers in our region and the people that depend on them staying healthy.”

For more information about the workshop, please contact Chris Sergeant by email at chris.sergeant@flbs.umt.edu or Erin Sexton at erin.sexton@flbs.umt.edu.

Contact: Tom Bansak, assistant director, Flathead Lake Biological Station, 406-872-4503, tom.bansak@flbs.umt.edu.
UM Business Bureau Director Elected President of National Association

October 30, 2019

MISSOULA – Patrick Barkey, director of Bureau of Business and Economic Research at the University of Montana, has been elected the 2019-20 president of the national Association for University Business and Economic Research.

AUBER is the premier professional organization for regional economics centers, with members from leading universities and affiliate organizations across the United States.

“It is humbling to follow the long history of prestigious researchers who have held this position,” Barkey said. “I look forward to working with the leadership team to make our organization more valuable and relevant.”

The University’s BBER has grown to become one of the largest and
most successful business research centers in the country. On an ongoing basis, the bureau analyzes local, state and national economies; provides annual income, employment and population forecasts; conducts extensive research on forest products, manufacturing, health care and child welfare; designs and conducts comprehensive survey research at its on-site call center; presents annual economic outlook seminars in cities throughout Montana; and publishes the award-winning Montana Business Quarterly magazine.

Barkey said he is honored to be elected and will continue supporting the AUBER community with vital programming and membership opportunities.

The board elections were announced at AUBER’s 2019 conference held in Savannah, Georgia, and hosted by the Center for Business Analytics and Economic Research at Georgia Southern University’s Parker College of Business.

For more information on AUBER, visit https://auber.org.

Established in 1948, BBER is the main research unit of the College of Business at UM. For more information, visit http://bber.umt.edu/ or call 406-243-5113.

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Contact: Patrick Barkey, BBER director, 406-243-5113, pat.barkey@mso.umt.edu.
UM Professor Receives Grant for Native Youth Mental Health Intervention

October 30, 2019

MISSOULA – American Indian and Alaska Native populations experience higher rates of mental health disparities than the rest of the U.S. population, with suicide as the second leading cause of death in 2014, according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. So far there is little understanding of a culturally responsive approach to address this issue.

Thanks to an American
Indian/Alaska Native Clinical and Translational Research Program $200,000 grant, the University of Montana’s Dr. Jingjing Sun will help develop culturally appropriate trainings by examining Social Emotional Learning interventions for Native children.

The AI/AN CTRP is a joint partnership, in cooperation with the National Institutes of Health, with three primary goals of reducing health issues within Native communities, fostering research for healthier communities and creating equitable research collaboration. It funds 15 to 20 investigators annually through development awards, pilot awards, diversity awards and community grants, and most recently Early Stage Investigator Career Awards, all of which have served tribal communities in Alaska and Montana.

Sun was selected as one of two recipients of the ESI Career Award after she completed a Development Award last year.

Sun is an assistant professor of educational psychology in the UM Phyllis J. Washington College of Education’s Department of Teaching and Learning. She will use the grant to engage with the school district and community of Arlee, a Native community of the Flathead Nation, to develop each phase of the study. Collaborating with UM associate professors Anisa Goforth and Lindsey Nichols, Sun also will work with children, educators, parents and caregivers in Arlee.

Sun’s mentorship team includes Dorothy Espelage from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Douglas Kominsky from Montana State University, Niki Graham from UM and a community advisory board composed of educators, tribal leaders, school administrators and mental health professionals from the Arlee School District.

The team is developing a culturally appropriate, multilayer program through community-based participatory research that includes SEL trainings for children, educators and community members.

Research completed during this project will help design and conduct mental health interventions through SEL with other Native American communities in Montana. The project ultimately seeks to improve the understanding of SEL as a comprehensive program that draws upon Native traditions and values and encompasses multilevel training for children, educators, parents and caregivers on AI/AN children’s mental health development.

“This award recognizes Dr. Sun’s strong potential as a promising young investigator and her dedication to equitable and sustainable community-research collaboration,” said Adrea Lawrence, dean of UM’s education college. “The grant will help us better understand the critical role that culturally responsive SEL practices can play for children in schools and their communities.”

To learn more about SEL interventions or UM’s Department of Teaching and Learning, call Sun at 406-243-4285 or email jingjing.sun@mso.umt.edu.

Contact: Jingjing Sun, assistant professor, UM Phyllis J. Washington College of Education Department of Teaching and Learning, 406-243-4285, jingjing.sun@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – Montana Public Radio and the University of Montana’s School of Journalism will host Elizabeth Jensen, the public editor for NPR, for a conversation on journalism ethics.

Jensen and a panel of MTPR reporters, student reporters and journalism faculty will speak at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 5, in the University Center Theater. Jensen also will speak to journalism students earlier in the day.

As NPR’s public editor since 2015, Jensen serves as the public’s representative to NPR and is responsible for bringing transparency to matters of journalism and journalism ethics. The public editor receives thousands of listener inquiries each year and responds to significant queries, comments and criticisms.

“With all that’s going on in the news today, we’re happy to host the person who investigates ethics at NPR,” said Ray Ekness, MTPR general manager. “It should be a fascinating presentation.”

Jensen has spent decades taking an objective look at the media industry. As a contributor to The New York Times, she covered the public broadcasting beat – PBS, NPR, local stations and programming – as well as children’s
media, documentaries, nonprofit journalism start-ups and cable programming. She also wrote for the Columbia Journalism Review and was a regular contributor to Current, the public broadcasting trade publication, where, among other topics, she wrote about sustainability strategies for public television stations.

Over her three decades in journalism, Jensen has reported on journalistic decision-making, mergers and acquisitions, content, institutional transformations, the intersection of media and politics, advertising and more, for a variety of national news organizations. She reported on the media for the Los Angeles Times, where she broke the story of Sinclair Broadcast Group’s partisan 2004 campaign activities, and was honored with an internal award for a story of the last official American Vietnam War casualty. Previously she was a senior writer for the national media watchdog consumer magazine Brill’s Content, spent six years at The Wall Street Journal, where she was part of a team of reporters honored with a Sigma Delta Chi public service award for tobacco industry coverage, and spent several years with the New York Daily News.

In 2005, Jensen was the recipient of a Kiplinger Fellowship in Public Affairs Journalism at The Ohio State University, focusing her research on media politicization. She earned her master’s in international relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, spending her second year at Geneva's L'Institut universitaire de hautes études internationales, and received her undergraduate degree from Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism.

When not covering media, Jensen, who teaches food journalism at New York University, has occasionally reported on the food world, including investigating vegetarian marshmallow fraud for a CNBC newsmagazine report.

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Contact: Ray Ekness, general manager, Montana Public Radio, 406-243-4154, ray.ekness@umontana.edu.
Community-Minded College Students Invited to Apply for Dennison Scholarship

October 29, 2019

UM News Service

MISSOULA – The Montana Campus Compact is now accepting applications from community-minded college students around the state for its inaugural George M. Dennison Civic Engagement Scholarship.

At least nine Montana college students will each receive the scholarship worth $1,000. The award will go to students who have volunteered significant time, energy and resources – while pursuing a degree or certificate – to projects that make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

The deadline for applications is Monday, Nov. 11. Learn more about the scholarship and apply at http://bit.ly/2pXrMUx. Winners will be notified by Monday, Dec. 9.

Funds for the scholarship were donated in memory of George M. Dennison by Jane Dennison and sons, Rick and Robert Dennison, and their families.
George M. Dennison (1935-2017) was the longest-serving president of the University of Montana, having led the university from 1990 until his retirement in 2010. Among his many accomplishments was his record of public service. In 1993 he co-founded Montana Campus Compact, a network of colleges and universities committed to community engagement.

“When the board of Montana Campus Compact created the George M. Dennison Civic Engagement Scholarship in 2018, it was done to honor a vision that reminds us that Montanans are better together, that we should strive to find common ground across political divides and that the core purpose of an education is to serve the public good,” said Josh Vanek, Montana Campus Compact associate director. “This scholarship honors exemplary Montana college students who, like George, have made noticeable positive differences in their communities, the country and the world.”

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**Contact:** Josh Vanek, associate director, Montana Campus Compact, 406-243-5177, vanek@mtcompact.org.
UM Business Bureau Earns National Award for Its Magazine

October 28, 2019

MISSOULA – The Bureau of Business and Economic Research at the University of Montana recently won a national award of excellence in electronic publications for its Montana Business Quarterly magazine.

The honor was presented by the Association for University Business and Economic Research (AUBER) at its 2019
conference in Savannah, Georgia.

For 57 years, the Montana Business Quarterly has provided research on economic and social-economic trends in the state. The first edition was published in 1962 and featured articles on Montana’s economy and statewide personal income estimates. Today, the UM magazine still addresses issues important to Montanans, like affordable housing, entrepreneurship and the state’s growing high-tech industry.

The decline of print media in recent years has spurred a growing social media audience for the magazine and its digital publication, which is online at www.montanabusinessquarterly.com.

“We launched the digital version of the magazine in 2016 and have made some big strides in expanding our readership,” said Scott Hawk, editor of the Montana Business Quarterly and BBER publications director. “Today, the magazine has a much larger audience with articles reaching thousands of readers across the state.”

“The visibility and prestige of an AUBER award is especially valuable and rewarding, since it is conferred by one’s own peers,” said Patrick Barkey, BBER director and AUBER's 2019-20 president.

AUBER is the premier professional organization for regional economics centers across the United States, with members from more than 75 leading universities and affiliate organizations.

“AUBER has a long tradition of recognizing the excellence of the important work done by its membership,” said Kathy Deck, AUBER publications chair. “Clear communication about complex topics is one of the things that AUBER members do best, so we are pleased to recognize superlative work that helps our community leaders understand economic realities and plan more effectively.”

Established in 1948, BBER is the main research unit of the College of Business at UM. Its researchers engage in a
wide range of applied research projects that address different aspects of the state economy, including survey research, economic analysis, health care research, forecasting, wood products research and energy research. For more information, visit http://bber.umt.edu/ or call 406-243-5113.

Subscriptions to the print edition of the Montana Business Quarterly are available. For more information or to subscribe, visit www.montanabusinessquarterly.com. Follow the Montana Business Quarterly on Facebook and Twitter @mtbquarterly.

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**Contact:** Scott Hawk, BBER publications director and editor, 406-243-2782, scott.hawk@mso.umt.edu.
UM to Host 14th Annual DiverseU

October 28, 2019

MISSOULA — The University of Montana will hold its 14th annual DiverseU symposium Tuesday through Thursday, Nov. 5-7, in the University Center. The symposium provides a forum for honest dialogue that explores the complexities of human experience, promotes understanding and creates community through civil discourse.

This year, the new Diversity Showcase will kick off DiverseU from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Nov. 5 in the University Center Ballroom. It will provide academic departments, UM student services, student groups, local agencies and businesses the opportunity to highlight their direct action in addressing diversity, equity and inclusion in our community and the region. Catered food selections will be provided.
Held on the third floor of the University Center, DiverseU will offer more than 40 sessions during the symposium on Nov. 6-7. A full schedule is online at [http://www.umt.edu/diverseu/](http://www.umt.edu/diverseu/).

This year's keynote panel event will highlight the national and regional crisis involving murdered and missing indigenous women and girls, and “Drumming with Dancers” will open the event to honor this topic. Smudging stations will be available for all participants to cleanse themselves or to learn about the significance of this practice. Bison chili, fry bread and beverages also will be provided. The event will take place in the University Center Ballroom, with doors opening at 5 p.m. Nov. 6 and the panel beginning at 6 p.m. View a list of speakers for the panel discussion at [https://www.umt.edu/diverseu/keynote.php](https://www.umt.edu/diverseu/keynote.php).

All DiverseU events are free and open to the public. Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to attend. No preregistration is required. The keynote event will be livestreamed and available on the DiverseU website.

For more information, visit [http://www.umt.edu/diverseu/](http://www.umt.edu/diverseu/) or email Joseph Grady at joseph.grady@mso.umt.edu or Adrianne Smith at adrianne.smith@mso.umt.edu. Facebook events for DiverseU are online at [https://www.facebook.com/umdiverseu](https://www.facebook.com/umdiverseu).

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**Contact:** Adrianne Smith, UM University Center director, 406-243-6029, adrianne.smith@mso.umt.edu.
UM Faculty Member Uses Robots to Win National Innovation Challenge

October 24, 2019

MISSOULA – With a little help from robots, University of Montana faculty member Sara Rinfret recently won a national pitch competition designed to enhance student education.

Dr. Rinfret chairs UM’s Department of Public Administration and Policy and is an associate professor in
the Alexander Blewett III School of Law. She competed in the third annual Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs and Administration (NASPAA) Voinovich Public Innovation Challenge, which was held Oct. 16-19 in Los Angeles.

Rinfret's winning presentation illustrated how robots can provide another access point for student success in rural, Western states like Montana. She described how students in remote areas access robots placed in UM classrooms to virtually attend class. The robots allow them to look around, hear lectures and ask questions.

“Our department is committed to student success,” Rinfret said, “and the use of robots for online students to access in-person classrooms is a viable pathway for working professionals to receive their degree.”

Rinfret competed for the national honor against top-ranked schools, including the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Syracuse University and the University of Southern California Price. Each finalist had 5 to 7 minutes to pitch their public innovation challenge. The win came with a $3,500 prize.

“This is a wonderful recognition of the innovative approach to teaching that Dr. Rinfret is pioneering with our Master of Public Administration program,” said Paul Kirgis, dean of UM's law school.

The pitch competition highlights exciting new strategies for enhancing student education, addressing unmet needs, advancing knowledge, or improving programmatic efficiency or effectiveness.

“It was an honor to win this award named for the late U.S. Sen. George Voinovich, whom I worked for as an undergraduate growing up in Ohio,” Rinfret said.

UM's MPA offers students the ability to complete their degree online or in person, providing flexibility for public and nonprofit professionals to advance their current and future careers. The program allows students to customize their degree by specializing in nonprofit administration or obtaining a joint degree in law or public health. Many students elect to add a certificate in public policy, nonprofit administration or natural resource conflict resolution.
Learn more about the program at www.umt.edu/land/ma.

UM views Rinfret’s accomplishment as an expression of SEA Change, a University initiative dedicated to empowering women and accelerating them into lives of impact by an unwavering commitment to their success.

Contact: Sara Rinfret, associate professor and chair, UM Department of Public Administration and Policy, 406-243-4702, sara.rinfret@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – As the Montana State Department of Public Health and Human Services announces the first death associated with vaping or e-cigarettes in the state, students at the University of Montana have organized an event to increase awareness about the health impacts of e-cigarettes. From Saturday through Wednesday, Oct. 26-30, the UM Curry Health Center will host a drive to encourage students to turn in their vape pens and e-cigarettes.

The event is organized by UM student Bobby Sonsteng, a senior majoring in community health.

“We brainstormed some great ideas, and I felt compelled to take the lead on this project,” said Sonsteng, who organized the drive with students in the Peers Reaching Out (PROs)
Students Organize Vape Pen Turn-In Drive - UM News - University Of Montana

program. “I was inspired because I fell there is a need on our campus regarding information about vaping.”

UM students who turn in vape pens or e-cigarettes can receive a $5 gift card for various Missoula businesses and entry into a raffle to win an Apple Watch or Beats by Dre headphones.

Community members are encouraged to participate during the Tobacco-Free football game on Saturday, Oct. 26.

The Curry Health Center also offers free Quit Kits to students looking to quit all tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, during regular business hours.

Dates and times for the drive are as follows:

- 11 a.m. to halftime Saturday, Oct. 26, at the Tobacco-Free Griz Game.
- 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, Oct. 28, at the Adams Center.
- 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 29, at the Lommasson Center.
- 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 30, at the UMHM space in the University Center.

“Our students have been extremely proactive in raising awareness about the dangers of e-cigarettes on campus,” said Linda Green, Curry Health Center wellness director. “This drive gives our campus a way to encourage healthy habits for students and the Missoula community while raising awareness about the potential health risks of solvents and flavorings in vaping liquids.”

According to UM’s most recent National College Health Assessment, the percent of UM students who reported daily e-cigarette use doubled in the past two years from 1.1 to 2.2%. Similarly, students who reported using e-cigarettes at least once in the past month more than doubled over the past two years, from 3.7% to 7.6%.

In response to the nationwide outbreak of lung injury associated with vaping, including deaths, the Centers for Disease Control recommends refraining from using all vaping products. UM is committed to creating a healthy environment for employees, students and visitors by supporting quitters and reducing the number of new smokers.
“Doctors are scrambling to find ways to treat these new pulmonary disorders that are connected to vaping, and it is proving how dangerous these e-cigs are,” Sonsteng said. “E-cigs are an unknown and scary habit, and we are here to help students take control of their lives and provide as much support as we can in the quitting process.”

For more information call UM Curry Health Center’s Jessica Vizzutti at 406-243-6958 or email jessica.vizzutti@umontana.edu.

Contact: Jessica Vizzutti, UM Curry Health Center media specialist, 406-243-6958, jessica.vizzutti@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – Research led by a University of Montana undergraduate student to identify less error-prone methods for performing wildlife surveys was published Oct. 20 in Ecological Applications.

Biologists around the world use a variety of boots-on-the-ground field methods to survey animal populations. When extrapolated, these data provide population counts and other scientific information used to study and manage species. But counting wildlife is rarely straightforward. Birds, for instance, are small or sometimes hard to see, and many species look and sound similar.

"Many biologists assume that false positives – either misidentifications or double-counts of animals – don't happen in their surveys. But research has shown that false..."
positives happen quite a lot, and those false positives can have huge impacts on the reliability of population estimates that we calculate from those data," said first author Kaitlyn Strickfaden, a researcher with UM's Avian Science Center. "So we made bird call simulations in which we knew the true identity of every calling bird to test differences in false positive rates in a few survey scenarios."

Strickfaden and her co-authors tested different experience levels (expert and naive) and two survey methods. The first survey method used a single observer while the second used two collaborating observers.

Strickfaden and her team created call simulations featuring mashups of songs from 10 different bird species. The researchers knew when particular species were calling throughout each of the simulations. Their volunteer observers – six experts and six beginners – did not. These observers listened to the call simulations, either alone or with another observer, and recorded the birds they thought they heard.

The double-observer method reported significantly lower false-positive rates regardless of the observers' experience level.

Observer experience was also an important factor, reaffirming that proper training is crucial to minimizing misidentifications during data collection.

The researchers found that error rates varied widely by species. Species with more unique songs were not misidentified as often as other species in the study. There also was an uneven trade-off in misidentifications within similar-sounding pairs. For example, McCown's longspurs were often misidentified as horned larks, so horned larks were greatly overcounted in the study compared to how many truly occurred, while McCown's longspurs were greatly undercounted.

“We don't make any claims about what survey method researchers should use, since every researcher’s situation is different, but our data do show...
that the double-observer method was less prone to errors than the single-observer method," Strickfaden said. 

“Collecting more accurate data gives us the ability to more accurately estimate population sizes. When we ignore false-positive errors, we may not know when populations are doing poorly and need conservation actions. Our research is a step forward in addressing this problem.”

Strickfaden, who graduated from UM in 2018 with a wildlife biology degree, has worked in the Avian Science Center since 2017. She conducted this research as her undergraduate senior thesis project.

“Kaitlyn’s persistence and tenacity is admirable. Publishing her undergraduate senior research in Ecological Applications is an outstanding accomplishment and demonstrates her abilities,” said Vicky Dreitz, director of the Avian Science Center and paper co-author. “Kaitlyn had the foresight to develop a project that provides information to avian ecologists, and wildlife biologists and managers, about the level of false positives, a well-known nuance in count-based survey data. We are proud and excited to be part of her accomplishment.”

Other co-authors include Danielle Fagre, Alan Harrington, Jessie Golding, Kaitlyn Reintsma and Jason Tack, all former or current UM students and part of the Avian Science Center.

The article “Dependent double-observer method reduces false positive errors in auditory avian survey data” is online at https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/eap.2026.

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**Contact:** Kaitlyn Strickfaden, UM research associate, 815-900-6086, kaitlyn.strickfaden@umontana.edu; Vicky Dreitz, Avian Science Center director, 406-243-5476, victoria.dreitz@cfc.umt.edu.
UM Mansfield Center Seeks High Schoolers for Fully Funded Korea Trip

October 22, 2019

MISSOULA – The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center at the University of Montana seeks four high school juniors from Missoula and Lake counties to travel as Youth Ambassadors to Korea for 10 days. Applications for this fully funded opportunity close Friday, Oct. 25, and are online at www.umt.edu/mansfield.

In the spirit of cultivating culturally sensitive leaders of tomorrow, The Korea Society in New York and the Pacific Century Institute in Los Angeles are inviting Montana youth to join their cohort of Youth Ambassadors in the Project Bridge intercultural youth leadership program.

During a six-month academic enrichment program, students build their understanding of race relations, leadership, and Korean society and culture through engaging bimonthly workshops. The project culminates in a fully funded 10-day study tour of the Republic of Korea in April 2020, followed by a community service project or presentation.

During the study tour, students interact with top Korean government and business officials, sharpening their intercultural and leadership skills. The Youth Ambassadors graduate from the program not only with a new network across the U.S. and Korea, but also with a deeper sense of the layers of diversity around them.
“This is the first time in the 27-year history of the program that we have been able to include rural and indigenous representation to an urban cohort of participants from New York City and Los Angeles,” said Deena Mansour, Mansfield Center interim executive director. “The enhanced composition of the delegation will further deepen the bridging of cultures, as the students explore diversity, not only between the U.S. and Korea, but across our own nation.”

Mansfield Center Program Manager Sophie DeMartine will accompany the group to Korea.

“Project Bridge will engage the selected Youth Ambassadors in a country that they’ve only read about in the news,” DeMartine said. “Making connections with cultures so different from our own will significantly enhance the global education they’re getting right here at home.”

Students who complete the program join a strong Youth Ambassador Alumni network that opens doors both nationally and internationally.

The Mansfield Center welcomes Project Bridge as part of its mission to foster globally minded leaders of integrity. International dialogue and cultural exchange are vital to the Mansfield Center's mission to enhance mutual understanding between the United States, Asia and the world.

For more information visit the Mansfield Center website at www.umt.edu/mansfield or call DeMartine at 406-243-2944.

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Contact: Sophie DeMartine, program manager, UM Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center, 406-243-2944, sophie.demartine@mso.umt.edu.

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UM Law School Again Named to National Best Value List

October 18, 2019

MISSOULA – Need a law school? The Alexander Blewett III School of Law at the University of Montana is now ranked 10th in the nation for best value by PreLaw Magazine, moving up one spot from a year ago.

The list of 25 Best Value Law Schools appears in the magazine’s fall 2019 edition, which is online at http://bit.ly/32n95l9.
The ranking recognizes schools where graduates have excellent chances of passing the bar and getting a job without taking on excessive debt. Schools are selected using a formula that incorporates the bar pass rate, employment rate, tuition, cost of living and average indebtedness upon graduation.

“It’s wonderful to be recognized again for the outstanding legal education we provide, which gives great value to our students at a reasonable price,” UM law Dean Paul Kirgis said. “Our students get to study in this amazing mountain setting, and then they go to rewarding legal careers.”

Kirgis noted only two universities in the West were among the 25 selected for the best-value list: UM and Brigham Young in Utah.

For more than 100 years, the UM law school has educated lawyers and prepared them to serve society. In 1914, the School of Law became a member of the Association of American Law Schools and in 1923 received accreditation from the American Bar Association.

In 2011, the School of Law celebrated 100 years of education and service. It accepts about 80 new law students every year. For more information visit [https://www.umt.edu/law/](https://www.umt.edu/law/).

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Contact: Paul Kirgis, UM law school dean, 406-243-5291, paul.kirgis@mso.umt.edu.
UM Law School Again Named to National Best Value List - UM News - University Of Montana
MISSOULA – This fall, Montana Public Radio’s pledge drive raised $276,000 for local news, entertainment and music programming. The pledge drive, which ran Oct. 9-15, had a goal of $250,000.

“We are incredibly grateful for all the support during our fall pledge drive,” said MTPR Director of Membership Anne Hosler. “These funds will go directly to producing the radio service our listeners love and rely on – an important source for trusted news, hand-picked music and children’s programming.”

Listener contributions make up a vital 75% of MTPR’s budget annually.

“We know our listeners are passionate about our Montana-made news and programs, but it takes financial support to make those programs a reality,” MTPR General Manager Ray Ekness said. “Thank you so much for your support.”

Listeners can continue to add to the total by donating online at http://mtpr.org or by mailing in pledges to MTPR at 32 Campus Drive, Missoula, Montana, 59812. The pledge drive and MTPR are made possible by the involvement
Montana Public Radio’s Fall Pledge Drive Exceeds Goal - UM News - University Of Montana

of thousands of people making their voices heard for public broadcasting in Montana.

MTPR is a service of the University of Montana. Its FM broadcast stations include 89.1 Missoula (KUFM); 91.5 Missoula, city (K218AI); 91.9 Hamilton (KUFN); 89.5 Polson (KPJH); 90.1 Kalispell, Whitefish, North Valley (KUKL); 90.5 Libby (KUFL); 91.7 Kalispell, city (K219BN); 101.3 Swan Lake (K267BJ); 91.3 Butte (KAPC); 91.7 Helena (KUHM); 91.7 Dillon (K219DN); and 89.9 Great Falls (KGPR).

###

Contact: Anne Hosler, director of membership, Montana Public Radio, 406-243-4214, anne.hosler@umontana.edu.
POLSON – The waters in public swim areas at Flathead Lake have been ranked clean and safe for swimming by a citizen science project for the second consecutive year.

“The sampling was great this season,” said Mark Johnston, founder of the Flathead Lake Open Water (FLOW) Swimmers and a driving force behind the

The Swim Guide Project is a collaborative effort among the Flathead Lake Biological Station, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and the FLOW Swimmers United States Masters Swimming Club in Polson, along with funding and effort from numerous Adopt-a-Beach partners.

The project is a community-driven water quality monitoring program, created to provide water quality information on the Swim Guide website and smartphone app (https://www.theswimguide.org/). The Swim Guide helps users easily find beaches open for public swimming and their water quality.

According to the Swim Guide, a beach is marked red – or unsafe for swimming – either when the average of two consecutive single sample results are equal to or over 100 colony-forming units (cfu) of bacteria, such as E. coli, per 100 milliliters of water, or, if a single sample exceeds 320 cfu per 100 mL of water.

Of the 110-plus tests conducted by the Flathead Lake Biological Station in 2019, the highest two-day average taken from any sample site at Flathead Lake was 75 cfu per 100 mL of water, while the highest single day result was 150 cfu per 100 mL of water. None of the results come close to exceeding Swim Guide program standards.

These results are notable, as is the expansion the Swim Guide Project has experienced at Flathead Lake over the past three years.

Two years ago, when the Swim Guide Project first came to Flathead Lake, it focused on monitoring three public swimming areas in Polson – Riverside, Boettcher and Salish Point parks. A year later, the number of monitoring sites swelled to six locations, adding Wolf Point, Elmo and Blue Bay tribal parks.

Now, the number of monitoring sites in the Flathead Lake Swim Guide Project has doubled again. It now boasts 12 monitoring sites, including Volunteer Park in Lakeside; Somers; the City Docks in Bigfork; Flathead Lake State Park – Wayfarers and Yellow Bay Units; and the Bio Station's cabin shoreline.

Over the summer, samples were collected from each location every one or two weeks and sent to the bio station’s Freshwater Research Lab, where they were processed for E. Coli, a bacteria that can be transferred to normally
clean swimming areas from waste – either from humans or local wildlife. The possibility of higher E. Coli levels increases on hot, stagnant days or after periods of heavy rainfall.

The results were returned to their respective citizen scientists, who then posted the information to the Swim Guide app.

To help accommodate the growth of the Swim Guide Project, many area small businesses participated to help offset the costs. These businesses include Alpine Design, UBS, Riverside Recreation, Flathead Lake RV, Glacier Perks, Rocky Mountain Outfitter and Sail Inn Marina. Nonprofit organizations like the Flathead Lakers and Greater Polson Community Foundation also have provided support for the project.

To learn more about the Swim Guide Project or to find out how you can participate, visit the FLOW Swimmers website at www.FlowSwimmers.com. The Swim Guide app is online at www.TheSwimGuide.org.

The Bio Station’s Freshwater Research Laboratory is an ecosystem science facility providing grant, contract and fee-based analytical services. It offers analyses on water, soil, air, biological and radiochemical samples. For more information about FLBS services, visit https://flbs.umt.edu/newflbs/services/freshwater-analyses/.

###

Contact: Tom Bansak, assistant director, Flathead Lake Biological Station, 406-872-4503, tom.bansak@flbs.umt.edu; Ian Withrow, FLBS media/information specialist, 406-872-4544, ian.withrow@flbs.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – The University of Montana Big Sky Poll recently asked participants “What is the highest number of U.S. Representatives that Montana has ever had?” Only 39% of respondents answered correctly with two. Although Montana currently has an at-large congressional district that
represents the entire state, Montana had two districts from 1913 to 1993.

Montana could regain a second congressional seat as a result of the 2020 census. The 2020 census in Montana will begin in February 2020. The census not only determines congressional representation, it also determines state-level funding for 300 federal programs, including allocations for Medicaid, highway construction, school lunches and Head Start.

Census data also will be used in redistricting to draw lines that link representatives to their constituents for the next 10 years. If Montana gains another congressional seat, the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission will meet to divide the state into two districts. The results of the 2020 census will be released in early 2021.

Each iteration of the UM Big Sky Poll includes a question about Montana trivia. The spring 2019 poll included the question “From what you know, has Montana ever elected a female representative to the U.S. Congress?” Forty-nine percent of respondents answered correctly: Jeannette Rankin was elected in 1916 and was the first female member of the U.S. Congress. In the fall 2018 poll, respondents were asked, “Can you tell me the name of the highest natural point in Montana?” Twenty-two percent answered correctly – Granite Peak.

The UM Big Sky Poll was conducted online between Sept. 26 to Oct. 3 with 303 randomly selected Montana registered voters. The poll has a margin of error of +/- 5.63 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. Use of poll findings require attribution to UM Big Sky Poll.

The poll is directed by UM Associate Professor Sara Rinfret, chair of UM’s Department of Public Administration and Policy, and UM marketing Associate Professor Justin Angle, in conjunction with four graduate students from the University’s public administration and business analytics programs. The survey was commissioned with support from UM’s Office of Research and Creative Scholarship, Blewett School of Law Baucus Institute and the Social Science Research Laboratory. The Big Sky Poll is conducted on an ongoing basis with its next iteration planned for spring 2020.

Full results from the poll are available on the UM Big Sky Poll website at http://umt.edu/bigsypoll.

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Contact: Dr. Sara Rinfret, associate professor and chair, UM Department of Public Administration and Policy, 406-243-4702, sara.rinfret@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – New York Times best-selling author Tommy Orange will deliver the next installment of the University of Montana’s 2019-20 President’s Lecture Series on Oct. 30.

was listed on the New York Times Book Review's 10 Best Books of the Year, won the Center for Fiction’s First Novel Prize and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. “There There” also was UM’s Griz Read 2019, an experience designed to provide new students with a common connection through a thought-provoking book.

Orange will present “A Conversation with Tommy Orange” at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 30, in the University Center Ballroom. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m., and the event is free and open to the public.

An enrolled member of the Cheyenne and
Arapaho Tribe of Oklahoma, Orange is a recent graduate from the Institute of American Indian Art’s Master in Fine Arts program. He is a 2014 MacDowell Fellow and a 2016 Writing by Writers Fellow. He lives in Angel’s Camp, California.

The UM President’s Lecture Series consists of several talks throughout the academic year on vital topics by distinguished guest speakers. For more information call 406-243-2311 or email thepresident@umontana.edu.

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Contact: UM Office of the President, 406-243-2311, thepresident@umontana.edu.
UM Launches Initiative to Prepare Workforce for High-Tech Industry

October 28, 2019

UM News Service

MISSOULA – Today, University of Montana President Seth Bodnar joined with strategic partners to launch the Tech Skills for Tomorrow Initiative, an effort aimed at providing education and training to address the high-tech workforce needs of Montana businesses.

Bodnar invited several collaborators to the launch, including Amazon Web Services, Montana High Tech Business Alliance, Missoula Economic Partnership the Montana Department of Labor and Industry. Local tech companies such as ATG-Cognizant, Submittable and LumenAd also attended the luncheon and took part in the conversation about addressing workforce demands in the tech industry.

“Montana faces a unique challenge in that our state faces a worker shortage and, at the same time, an emerging tech sector in one of the most vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystems in the country,” said Bodnar. “Missoula College and the University of Montana have an important role to play in addressing this challenge, and Tech Skills for Tomorrow is an important framework for our response.”
Michael Punke, vice president of public policy for Amazon Web Services, noted the pace at which new technologies are transforming the business model for companies across every sector and the need for a highly skilled workforce.

“Amazon Web Services is committed to training workers for today and for the future,” he said. “We’re excited to partner with innovative institutions like the University of Montana and Missoula College to help their students get good-paying jobs.”

Galen Hollenbaugh, commissioner of the Montana Department of Labor and Industry, attended the launch event and expressed optimism about the potential for addressing workforce shortages in Montana’s tight labor market.

“We’re partnering with the Montana University System to offer support for degree completion, technical training and apprenticeships,” he said. “We see our university system as integral to providing the highly skilled workforce Montana needs now and will increasingly need in the future.”

The Tech Skills for Tomorrow Initiative is based on programs, partnerships, pathways and pipelines. Bodnar described the approach further: “To build the pipeline of talent that this state needs to grow, we not only need to have the right programs in place, we need to have strong partnerships with employers here in Montana and globally, as well as a diverse set of pathways for students to access learning.”

The Montana High Tech Business Alliance is a strategic partner in Tech Skills for Tomorrow. Executive Director Christina Henderson said that according to surveys conducted by UM’s Bureau of Business and Economic Research, high-tech industry jobs are in high demand and, on average, pay twice the median wage in Montana.

“The launch of Tech Skills for Tomorrow is the continuation of an important discussion between local tech companies and the University of Montana, which began with a roundtable meeting last fall,” Henderson said. “A shortage of skilled talent is the No. 1 barrier to growth cited by Montana high-tech and manufacturing companies for five consecutive years. This initiative marks a huge leap forward in taking action to address the workforce gap.”

Missoula Economic Partnership Executive Director Grant Kier noted that Missoula employers have urgent needs for workers with technical skills.

“Missoula employers have expressed that industry-specific skills are a significant challenge when recruiting talent to meet the rapidly changing needs of our burgeoning tech economy,” Kier said. “This initiative is a holistic response to address the needs of Missoula’s tech sector businesses while creating pathways to meaningful employment for
people seeking them in our community.”

Contact: Paula Short, UM communications director, 406-243-5806, paula.short@umontana.edu.

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MISSOULA – The University of Montana will host its Pharmacy Career Fair on Friday, Oct. 18, for organizations recruiting UM students for internships and full-time positions.

Hosted by UM’s Office of Experiential Learning and Career Success, the event will run from 10 a.m. to noon, followed by company interviews lasting until 5 p.m.

Registered employers will receive a career fair booth, lunch and free parking. The Office of Experiential Learning and Career Success will provide students to help employers with their fair materials and assist with setup.

Employers can register online by signing into Handshake at https://umt.joinhandshake.com/career_fairs/12742.

For more information, call Emily Johnson, UM recruiting coordinator, at 406-243-2239 or email emily1.johnson@mso.umt.edu.

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Contact: Emily Johnson, recruiting coordinator, UM Office of Experiential Learning and Career Success, 406-243-2239, emily1.johnson@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – The Western Montana Area Health Education Center at the University of Montana will host 1st Shift, a one-day, entry-level health care career exposure program, Friday, Oct. 25, at Salish Kootenai College.

The program will take place from 9:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at SKC in Pablo. It is geared toward nontraditional students, displaced workers, veterans and students in gap years.

The WMT-AHEC advisory board developed 1st Shift after determining that the greatest immediate need for Montana’s small western rural hospitals is recruitment of qualified individuals to fill entry-level hospital and clinical positions. This event is held in collaboration with SKC and several Flathead Valley agencies and health care facilities.
The program will feature an entry-level health care employee panel with employers, and education roundtables focusing on job shadows, apprenticeships, available training, current job openings and financial assistance for education. Networking opportunities and lunch also will be provided.

Online registration is open until Friday, Oct. 18, at [http://www.wmtahec.org/](http://www.wmtahec.org/). Interested participants also may pick up an application at the Polson Job Service.

The Western Montana Area Health Education Center continues to work on strategies to connect students to careers, professionals to communities and communities to better health. The 1st Shift program serves as a model program for other Montana counties struggling to recruit and retain a health care workforce.

For more information call Lily Apedaile, program coordinator, at 406-243-7946.

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Contact: Lily Apedaile, UM Western Montana Area Health Education Center program coordinator, 406-243-7946, lily.apedaile@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – When the University of Montana Foundation publicly launched the most ambitious fundraising campaign in UM history, it announced a goal of inspiring $400 million in philanthropic giving through 2020 to benefit every UM student, college, school and program. That target has been exceeded – nearly a year before the
University of Montana Surges Past $400 Million Campaign Fundraising Goal - UM News - University Of Montana

The comprehensive, seven-year initiative known as “Campaign Montana – Think Big. Be Bold.” began in July 2013 and launched publicly in October 2018. In the past year, generous donors have provided over $74.8 million in support, pushing the late-September campaign total past the launch goal to $401.3 million.

With this significant philanthropic momentum and the private support goal for several priority opportunities yet to be met, the UM Foundation will continue to partner with alumni and friends to advance these priority opportunities through the campaign’s conclusion next summer.

“I am deeply grateful for the extraordinary generosity of our alumni and friends who have buoyed this institution with their engagement, insights and giving,” UM President Seth Bodnar said. “Their support of and steadfast belief in the University of Montana will continue to impact our campus community in immeasurable ways, and our students will benefit long into the future.”
Donors have transformed thousands of lives through Campaign Montana. Their philanthropic gifts have created 15 new endowed faculty positions that help UM recruit and retain top faculty, helped renovate or construct 10 facilities to enrich learning environments, and provided access to higher education by giving $115 million for scholarships and other student support. The campaign has inspired donations to all colleges and schools, as well as Grizzly Athletics, the Flathead Lake Biological Station, the Montana Museum of Art and Culture, and other programs.

Gifts of all sizes have made a difference. More than 32,000 donors have given to the campaign, with nearly 37,000 gifts under $100 counting toward the overall goal. During Campaign Montana over 12,000 first-time UM donors have pledged their support to the University.

At its annual dinner for members of the President’s Club giving society on Oct. 3, the UM Foundation announced more than $7 million in gifts.

A $5 million gift from the Terry and Patt Payne Family will enable Montana Museum of Art and Culture to bring its vast collection of thousands of compelling works of art from campus storage into public view and engagement.

Dennis and Gretchen Eck have pledged $1.25 million to support the S.E.A. Change Initiative for UM Students, a new program that prepares women across disciplines to become next-generation leaders whose contributions will influence broad societal change.

University of Montana alumni Sam and Julie Baldridge have donated $1 million to help fund an expansion of UM’s Clinical Psychology Center, allowing it to serve up to four times more Western Montana residents in need of mental health care.

Alumni Mark and Cheryl Burnham, co-chairs of Campaign Montana’s public phase, have articulated a call to action for UM supporters as the campaign enters its final year: Consider how you want to make an impact at UM and take action as we reach for greatness.

“We have a golden opportunity to redefine
success,” said Mark Burnham, “but it will take each one of us grabbing the part of the dream that resonates with us personally and giving to make it a reality. We must commit to 110 percent for our students and our University.”

With student success as a top strategic priority, Campaign Montana is a vital channel of support right now. Private support can provide the critical resources required to further develop and enhance the services and resources students need to persist and succeed, including connecting every student with both a professional academic adviser and faculty mentor on their structured pathway to lifelong achievement.

One example of recent donor support in this area comes from alumnus Joe Whittinghill and Blake Takamura, who provided a leadership gift to develop a Student Success Center in the College of Humanities & Sciences, where students receive one-stop professional support as they create personalized educational and career plans. Many similar giving opportunities like this one exist across the University.

Throughout the next year, UM colleges, schools and programs aim to enhance accessible, world-class programs, enrich dynamic learning environments and expand the boundaries of faculty-led research, experiential learning and mentoring with students.

Individuals, families, businesses and private foundations can connect with a range of opportunities to impact students and programs in their area of interest. These opportunities include augmenting traditional classroom learning with more access to field coursework, study abroad programs and internships. Privately supported undergraduate scholarships will provide students struggling with financial limitations with the assistance they need to excel at UM, while also enabling UM’s top-rated programs like Wildlife Biology to recruit the nation’s top students.

Donors may help provide an enriched preschool environment for students working and learning in the new wing of the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education or support the further development of the School of Journalism’s Montana Media Lab, which was established to build news literacy and knowledge in digital storytelling.

UM supporters interested in the field of health care are invited to explore ways they can help expand the reach of the Neural Injury Center to serve Montana veterans and their families or the student training programs that prepare
University of Montana Surges Past $400 Million Campaign Fundraising Goal - UM News - University Of Montana

graduates for rural medical careers. A complete overview of all campuswide priorities can be found at www.campaignmontana.org.

“This campaign is a public-private partnership that is shaping UM’s future before our very eyes,” said Cindy Williams, president and CEO of the UM Foundation. “Now is the time for us to be the best advocates we can be for all students as they navigate their educational journeys and become the next generation of leaders reaching for greatness.”

Campaign Montana is managed by the UM Foundation, an independent nonprofit organization that has inspired philanthropic support to enhance excellence and opportunity at UM since 1950. In June 2019, the UM Foundation earned an Educational Fundraising Award for Overall Performance from the Council to Support and Advance Education. The award recognizes “colleges and universities that show solid program growth, breadth in the base of support and other indications of a mature, well-maintained program.”

Visit www.campaignmontana.org or call the UM Foundation at 406-243-2593 to learn more and to find an unmet Campaign Montana priority that aligns with the impact you would like to make in the world.

Contact: Elizabeth Willy, director of communications, UM Foundation, 406-243-5320, elizabeth.willy@supportum.org.

Contact:

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Request a News Release
Suggest a Story Idea

Quick Links

News Archive
Events Calendar
University Relations
UM Food Pantry Seeks Support for Crowdfunding Campaign

October 10, 2019

MISSOULA – For community members who have wondered how to contribute to the success of college students at the University of Montana, the new Food Pantry has a meaningful way for them to show support. The UM Food Pantry is raising funds through Thursday, Oct. 17, to participate in the national #RealCollege survey, which asks students to share their stories about basic needs insecurity.
The survey will help the Food Pantry understand the needs of students today and take steps toward providing essential resources to UM students. Funds raised through the Crowdfunding Campaign on the UM Foundation webpage will go directly to students in the form of incentives for taking the #RealCollege survey and help with the labor associated with bringing the survey to UM.

The Food Pantry’s goal is to provide free food and hygiene products to students, staff and others experiencing basic needs insecurity. Donations are necessary because the UM Food Pantry is a nonprofit organization that relies on community donations and grants to make the program sustainable for the future.

Since opening in February 2019, the UM Food Pantry has served over 100 customers with more than 3,000 pounds of food and nearly 300 hygiene products. To donate to the UM Food Pantry’s Crowdfunding Campaign, visit https://crowdfunding.supportum.org/campaigns/support-the-um-food-pantry.

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Contact: Sarah Poole, AmeriCorps VISTA/Campus Compact member, 206-243-5177, sarah.poole@mso.umt.edu.
UM Safe Schools Center Receives $1M Grant

October 09, 2019

MISSOULA – Montana is best known for its towering mountains and miles of open space, and its rural nature is the reason many people choose to live, work and play in the state.

However, the reality for many rural communities and schools in Montana is that emergency medical services, law enforcement personnel and mental health services are limited or nonexistent because of the state’s vast size and small population. The sparse nature of the state makes the lack of access to services a barrier to preventing and responding to violence and ensuring school safety.

Now, thanks to a $1 million U.S. Department of Justice grant, the University of Montana Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and its Safe Schools Center will lead a statewide effort to improve school safety.

The grant, awarded under the STOP School Violence Technology and Threat Assessment Solutions for Safer Schools Program, will provide the UM center the ability to work collaboratively with schools across the state to improve safety for all students.
Montana Public Schools Systems are numerous, totaling 406 separate operating districts, which includes 12 Native American tribal nations. This means collaboration, coordination and consistency across the state on school safety issues are challenging. Additionally, mental illness and substance use disorders are common and serious problems in Montana.

“Safety is a broad field encompassing many different components,” said Dr. Dan Lee, director of UMSSC. “It is a complex, multidimensional issue. It’s a field that is growing in notoriety and needs to be approached with a dynamic set of solutions. This grant allows aspiring education professionals to be actively engaged in developing safety solutions for rural communities and generates cross-sectional collaborations.”

School safety is not just one school’s concern – it has an undeniable impact on everyone in the surrounding communities. UMSSC is dedicated to providing leadership and guidance on trauma-informed practices that will improve the lives of many, Lee said. The center is active in interdisciplinary research and maintains a presence in the national dialog about trauma and children. It has collaborative relationships throughout the state that will be the foundation to improving school safety.

Over the next three years, UMSSC plans to collaborate with doctoral students in the Department of Counseling at the UM education college to establish a tele-mental health center that will help serve the needs of children in rural communities throughout Montana. UMSSC plans to assist in the development and deployment of low-cost, anonymous reporting technology for students, teachers and community members to report concerning behaviors or activities.

The center also intends to conduct statewide school safety focus groups to more fully determine current understanding of critical incident response training in schools, as well as host a two-day school safety conference on campus. Finally, it will partner with the National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense at Missoula College, under the direction of Dr. Thomas Gallagher, to host a two-day school cybersecurity conference next year.

For more information on UMSSC, visit http://coehs.umt.edu/specunits/montana_safe_schools_center/.

###

Contact: Daniel Lee, associate professor and director of UM Montana Safe Schools Center, UM Phyllis J. Washington College of Education, 406-243-5204, daniel.lee@mso.umt.edu.
UM Poll: Montanans Weigh In on Walmart Gun Policy

October 09, 2019

MISSOULA – The University of Montana Big Sky Poll recently surveyed Montanans perceptions about Walmart’s decision to ban the sale of certain short-barrel rifle and handgun ammunitions and to discontinue handgun sales entirely.

When asked, “Walmart is discontinuing the sale of certain short-barrel rifle ammunition, as well as handgun ammunition and discontinuing handgun sales entirely. Are you more or less likely to shop at Walmart due to this announcement?” 40% of respondents said they are now less likely to shop at Walmart; 37% said they were more
likely; and 23% preferred not to answer.

The responses differed by political affiliation. Eighty percent of Democrats said they were “more likely” to shop at Walmart, compared to 18% of Republicans and 29% of Independents.

Fifty-nine percent of Republicans and 45% of Independents said they were “less likely” to shop at Walmart, while only 5% of Democrats indicated they were “less likely” to shop at Walmart due to the announcement.

The UM Big Sky Poll online survey was conducted Sept. 26 to Oct. 3 with 303 registered Montana voters. The poll has a margin of error of +/- 5.63 percentage points at a 95% confidence level.

The poll is directed by UM Associate Professor Sara Rinfret, chair of the Department of Public Administration and Policy, and UM marketing Associate Professor Justin Angle, in conjunction with four graduate students from UM’s public administration and business analytics programs. The survey was commissioned with support from UM’s Office of Research and Creative Scholarship, the Blewett School of Law’s Baucus Institute and the Social Science Research Laboratory.

The Big Sky Poll is conducted on an ongoing basis with its next iteration planned for spring 2020. Full results from the poll are available on the UM Big Sky Poll website at http://umt.edu/bigskypoll.

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**Full Results:**

**Table 1: “Walmart is discontinuing the sale of certain short-barrel rifle ammunition as well as handgun ammunition and discontinuing handgun sales entirely. Are you more or less likely to shop at Walmart due to this announcement?”**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Less Likely</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>More Likely</td>
<td>37%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prefer not to answer</td>
<td>23%</td>
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</table>

**Table 1 Cont’d., Demographic**

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less Likely</td>
<td>31.0%</td>
<td>52.7%</td>
<td>38.7%</td>
<td>41.9%</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>59.3%</td>
<td>44.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>More Likely</td>
<td>44.4%</td>
<td>27.5%</td>
<td>39.8%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
<td>79.5%</td>
<td>17.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prefer not to answer</td>
<td>24.6%</td>
<td>19.8%</td>
<td>21.5%</td>
<td>24.8%</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
<td>23.0%</td>
<td>26.0%</td>
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**Table 1 Cont’d., Education Level**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>High School/ GED</th>
<th>Some College</th>
<th>Assoc. Degree</th>
<th>Bach. Degree</th>
<th>Post-Bac. (Ph.D., J.D., etc.)</th>
<th>Other</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less Likely</td>
<td>46.7%</td>
<td>43.6%</td>
<td>47.4%</td>
<td>41.2%</td>
<td>28.4%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More Likely</td>
<td>36.7%</td>
<td>32.1%</td>
<td>34.2%</td>
<td>35.3%</td>
<td>47.8%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prefer not to answer</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
<td>24.4%</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
<td>23.5%</td>
<td>23.9%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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**Contact:** Sara Rinfret, associate professor and chair, UM Department of Public Administration and Policy, 406-243-4702, sara.rinfret@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – The
University of Montana Big
Sky Poll recently polled
303 registered Montana
voters and discovered
they have mixed views
about the impeachment
of President Donald
Trump, the economy and
the job performance of
elected officials.

When asked, “Do you think that President Trump should be impeached and removed from office?” 52% of
respondents answered no, 39% responded yes, and 10% responded that they did not know.
The poll asked Montanans, "In your view, is the economy improving, staying the same or getting worse?" Forty-two percent of respondents said the economy was improving, 31% said it was staying the same, and 27% said it was getting worse.

In a series of questions, Montanans rated the job performance of their elected officials from excellent to poor, with the results in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Elected Official Job Performance**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Official</th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pres. Donald Trump</td>
<td>41.9%</td>
<td>16.5%</td>
<td>12.0%</td>
<td>29.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sen. Jon Tester</td>
<td>20.8%</td>
<td>26.8%</td>
<td>30.1%</td>
<td>22.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sen. Steve Daines</td>
<td>21.0%</td>
<td>36.4%</td>
<td>31.8%</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rep. Greg Gianforte</td>
<td>35.2%</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>27.6%</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Congress</td>
<td>50.2%</td>
<td>16.8%</td>
<td>32.1%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gov. Steve Bullock</td>
<td>25.6%</td>
<td>32.3%</td>
<td>24.3%</td>
<td>17.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MT State Legislature</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>39.7%</td>
<td>45.7%</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Participants were asked to pick their preferred candidate, if the presidential election were held today, in a series of head-to-head match-ups. Results are listed in Table 2 below.

**Table 2: Presidential Candidates: Head-to-Head Match Ups**
When asked, “If the election for Montana’s U.S. Senate seat was held today, which of the following potential candidates would you vote for?” 64% of respondents selected the incumbent Steve Daines (R), and 18% selected Jack Ballard (D).

When asked if the election were held today for Montana’s U.S. House Representative seat election, 36% of respondents selected Kathleen Williams (D), 35% selected Matt Rosendale (R), and 20% selected Corey Stapleton (R).

When asked if the election were held today for Montana’s governor, 35% selected Greg Gianforte (R), 23% selected Mike Cooney (D), 16% selected Tim Fox (R), and 8% selected Whitney Williams (D).

The UM Big Sky Poll online survey was conducted Sept. 26 through Oct., 3 with 303 registered Montana voters. The poll has a margin of error of +/- 5.63 percentage points at a 95 percent confidence level.

The poll is directed by UM Associate Professor Sara Rinfret, chair of the Department of Public Administration and Policy, and UM marketing Associate Professor Justin Angle in conjunction with four graduate students from UM’s public administration and business analytics programs.

The survey was commissioned with support from UM’s Office of Research and Creative Scholarship, Blewett School of Law’s Baucus Institute and the Social Science Research Laboratory. The Big Sky Poll is conducted on an ongoing basis with its next iteration planned for spring 2020.

Use of poll findings require attribution to UM Big Sky Poll. Full results from the poll are available on the UM Big Sky Poll website at http://umt.edu/bigskypoll.

###

**Table 1: Elected Officials Approval Ratings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Poor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pres. Donald Trump</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>42%</td>
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### Table 2: President Trump Approval Ratings by Demographic

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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>26.3%</td>
<td>33.8%</td>
<td>27.3%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>58.8%</td>
<td>22.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
<td>16.9%</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
<td>23.1%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>23.7%</td>
<td>17.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
<td>16.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>45.0%</td>
<td>37.7%</td>
<td>47.6%</td>
<td>32.5%</td>
<td>89.7%</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
<td>43.2%</td>
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### Table 2 Cont’d., Education Level

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<th>Bachelor’s Degree</th>
<th>Post-Bac. (Ph.D., J.D., etc.)</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>40.0%</td>
<td>35.4%</td>
<td>25.6%</td>
<td>33.7%</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td>15.2%</td>
<td>25.6%</td>
<td>18.6%</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
<td>13.9%</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>26.7%</td>
<td>35.4%</td>
<td>38.5%</td>
<td>34.9%</td>
<td>65.7%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
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### Table 3: Sen. Tester Approval Ratings by Demographic

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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Sen. Jon Tester</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sen. Steve Daines</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rep. Greg Gianforte</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Congress</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gov. Steve Bullock</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>26%</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MT State Legislature</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>9%</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Poor</td>
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<tr>
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<td>25.1%</td>
<td>25.1%</td>
<td>29.8%</td>
<td>19.9%</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>19.1%</td>
<td>28.2%</td>
<td>30.5%</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>23.0%</td>
<td>28.3%</td>
<td>30.5%</td>
<td>18.2%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>21.4%</td>
<td>23.9%</td>
<td>29.9%</td>
<td>24.8%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>59.0%</td>
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<td>11.5%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
<td>42.1%</td>
<td>35.1%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15.5%</td>
<td>32.0%</td>
<td>30.9%</td>
<td>21.6%</td>
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**Table 3 Cont’d., Education Level**

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<thead>
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<th>Assoc. Degree</th>
<th>Bachelor's Degree</th>
<th>Post-Bac. (Ph.D., J.D., etc.)</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>19.4%</td>
<td>19.2%</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>19.8%</td>
<td>40.3%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>16.1%</td>
<td>28.2%</td>
<td>34.2%</td>
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<td>31.3%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>38.7%</td>
<td>32.1%</td>
<td>39.5%</td>
<td>32.6%</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>25.8%</td>
<td>20.5%</td>
<td>22.1%</td>
<td>26.7%</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Table 4: Sen. Daines Approval Ratings by Demographic**

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<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>21.9%</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
<td>40.8%</td>
<td>33.7%</td>
<td>40.2%</td>
<td>23.1%</td>
<td>40.4%</td>
<td>43.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>33.9%</td>
<td>29.2%</td>
<td>34.2%</td>
<td>28.2%</td>
<td>32.1%</td>
<td>28.1%</td>
<td>36.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>22.2%</td>
<td>18.5%</td>
<td>23.5%</td>
<td>17.1%</td>
<td>42.3%</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
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**Table 4 Cont’d., Education Level**

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<th>Bachelor's Degree</th>
<th>Post-Bac. (Ph.D., J.D., etc.)</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
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</table>
Table 5: Rep. Gianforte Approval Ratings by Demographic

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
<td>15.5%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>24.8%</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>24.6%</td>
<td>26.0%</td>
<td>21.4%</td>
<td>30.2%</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
<td>33.6%</td>
<td>29.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>28.1%</td>
<td>26.7%</td>
<td>28.3%</td>
<td>26.7%</td>
<td>22.1%</td>
<td>34.5%</td>
<td>26.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>37.4%</td>
<td>32.1%</td>
<td>40.1%</td>
<td>27.6%</td>
<td>68.8%</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
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Table 5 Cont’d., Education Level

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<th>Assoc. Degree</th>
<th>Bachelor’s Degree</th>
<th>Post-Bac. (Ph.D., J.D., etc.)</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>35.5%</td>
<td>23.1%</td>
<td>27.5%</td>
<td>31.8%</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>29.0%</td>
<td>32.1%</td>
<td>32.5%</td>
<td>27.1%</td>
<td>22.7%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>29.0%</td>
<td>29.5%</td>
<td>35.0%</td>
<td>25.9%</td>
<td>53.0%</td>
<td>100%</td>
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Table 6: U.S. Congress Approval Ratings by Demographic

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
<td>17.2%</td>
<td>16.2%</td>
<td>24.4%</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>37.6%</td>
<td>25.4%</td>
<td>31.2%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
<td>47.4%</td>
<td>26.5%</td>
<td>29.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>41.2%</td>
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<td>51.1%</td>
<td>48.7%</td>
<td>28.2%</td>
<td>59.3%</td>
<td>56.3%</td>
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**Table 6 Cont’d., Education Level**

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<th>Bachelor’s Degree</th>
<th>Post-Bac. (Ph.D., J.D., etc.)</th>
<th>Other</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>23.3%</td>
<td>25.3%</td>
<td>23.7%</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fair</td>
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<td>31.6%</td>
<td>23.7%</td>
<td>35.3%</td>
<td>36.4%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>40.5%</td>
<td>52.6%</td>
<td>51.8%</td>
<td>56.2%</td>
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</table>

**Table 7: Gov. Bullock Approval Ratings by Demographic**

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>21.2%</td>
<td>13.7%</td>
<td>16.6%</td>
<td>19.7%</td>
<td>41.0%</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>36.5%</td>
<td>26.7%</td>
<td>32.6%</td>
<td>31.6%</td>
<td>46.2%</td>
<td>23.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>22.9%</td>
<td>26.0%</td>
<td>26.7%</td>
<td>20.5%</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
<td>31.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>19.4%</td>
<td>33.6%</td>
<td>24.1%</td>
<td>28.2%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>39.8%</td>
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**Table 7 Cont’d., Education Level**

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<th>Bachelor’s Degree</th>
<th>Post-Bac. (Ph.D., J.D., etc.)</th>
<th>Other</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>22.6%</td>
<td>19.2%</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
<td>22.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>19.4%</td>
<td>32.1%</td>
<td>38.5%</td>
<td>25.9%</td>
<td>41.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair</td>
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<td>26.9%</td>
<td>23.1%</td>
<td>28.2%</td>
<td>16.2%</td>
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</table>
Table 8: Montana Legislature Approval Ratings by Demographic

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
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<td>4.8%</td>
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<td>7.7%</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>33.6%</td>
<td>37.1%</td>
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<td>46.2%</td>
<td>38.1%</td>
<td>38.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>44.1%</td>
<td>47.3%</td>
<td>48.9%</td>
<td>41.0%</td>
<td>37.2%</td>
<td>54.0%</td>
<td>42.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
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Table 8 Cont’d., Education Level

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<th>Assoc. Degree</th>
<th>Bachelor’s Degree</th>
<th>Post-Bac. (Ph.D., J.D., etc.)</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>30.0%</td>
<td>43.6%</td>
<td>44.7%</td>
<td>37.6%</td>
<td>42.4%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
<td>41.0%</td>
<td>44.7%</td>
<td>51.8%</td>
<td>42.4%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 9: If the election were held today, who would you vote for?

U.S. President (asked as head-to-head match ups)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donald Trump</td>
<td>48.5%</td>
<td>60.3%</td>
<td>48.1%</td>
<td>62.1%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>89.4%</td>
<td>56.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe Biden</td>
<td>51.5%</td>
<td>39.7%</td>
<td>51.9%</td>
<td>37.9%</td>
<td>98.7%</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
<td>43.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 9 Cont’d., Trump vs. Biden by Education Level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>High School/GED</th>
<th>Some College</th>
<th>Assoc. Degree</th>
<th>Bach. Degree</th>
<th>Post-Bac. (Ph.D., J.D., etc.)</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donald Trump</td>
<td>63.3%</td>
<td>59.0%</td>
<td>57.9%</td>
<td>61.2%</td>
<td>32.8%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe Biden</td>
<td>36.7%</td>
<td>41.0%</td>
<td>42.1%</td>
<td>38.8%</td>
<td>67.2%</td>
<td>66.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 9 Cont’d., Trump vs. Warren by Demographic

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donald Trump</td>
<td>49.7%</td>
<td>60.3%</td>
<td>49.2%</td>
<td>62.9%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>94.7%</td>
<td>51.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Warren</td>
<td>50.3%</td>
<td>39.7%</td>
<td>50.8%</td>
<td>37.1%</td>
<td>98.7%</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>48.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 9 Cont’d., Trump vs. Warren by Education Level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>High School/GED</th>
<th>Some College</th>
<th>Assoc. Degree</th>
<th>Bach. Degree</th>
<th>Post-Bac. (Ph.D., J.D., etc.)</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donald Trump</td>
<td>66.7%</td>
<td>53.8%</td>
<td>59.0%</td>
<td>62.4%</td>
<td>37.9%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Warren</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
<td>46.2%</td>
<td>41.0%</td>
<td>37.6%</td>
<td>62.1%</td>
<td>66.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 9 Cont’d., Trump vs. Sanders by Demographic

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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donald Trump</td>
<td>49.4%</td>
<td>61.1%</td>
<td>49.7%</td>
<td>61.2%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>92.9%</td>
<td>52.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bernie Sanders</td>
<td>50.6%</td>
<td>38.9%</td>
<td>50.3%</td>
<td>38.8%</td>
<td>98.7%</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>47.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 9 Cont’d., Trump vs. Sanders by Education Level

| Donald Trump | 60.0% | 57.7% | 57.9% | 63.5% | 34.8% | Other |
| Bernie Sanders | 40.0% | 42.3% | 42.1% | 36.5% | 65.2% | 100% |

Table 9 Cont’d., Trump vs. Harris by Demographic

| Donald Trump | 50.6% | 61.4% | 50.0% | 63.2% | 2.6% | 92.9% | 55.2% |
| Kamala Harris | 49.4% | 38.6% | 50.0% | 36.8% | 97.4% | 7.1% | 44.8% |

Table 9 Cont’d., Trump vs. Harris by Education Level

| Donald Trump | 70.0% | 57.7% | 59.0% | 64.0% | 32.8% | 33.3% |
| Kamala Harris | 30.0% | 42.3% | 41.0% | 36.0% | 67.2% | 66.7% |

Table 9 Cont’d., Trump vs. Bullock by Demographic

| Donald | 46.8% | 50.0% | 42.5% | 56.9% | 89.4% | 40.6% |
Table 9 Cont’d., Trump vs. Bullock by Education Level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>High School/GED</th>
<th>Some College</th>
<th>Assoc. Degree</th>
<th>Bach. Degree</th>
<th>Post-Bac. (Ph.D., J.D., etc.)</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Donald Trump</em></td>
<td>60.0%</td>
<td>52.6%</td>
<td>55.3%</td>
<td>53.5%</td>
<td>27.3%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Steve Bullock</em></td>
<td>40.0%</td>
<td>47.4%</td>
<td>44.7%</td>
<td>46.5%</td>
<td>72.7%</td>
<td>66.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 10: If the Election Were Held Today, Who Would You Vote For?

**U.S. Senate**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Steve Daines</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Ballard</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilmot Collins</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Mues</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 10 Cont’d., U.S. Senate by Demographic
Steve Daines  |  59.1% |  71.0% |  59.4% |  70.7% |  36.8% |  82.3% |  68.8%  
Jack Ballard |  21.1% |  14.5% |  18.2% |  18.1% |  23.7% |  13.3% |  17.7%  
Wilmot Collins |  10.5% |  6.9% |  12.8% |  4.3% |  22.4% |  0.9% |  8.3%  
John Mues  |  9.4% |  7.6% |  9.6% |  6.9% |  17.1% |  3.5% |  5.2%  

Table 10 Cont’d., U.S. Senate by Education Level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>High School/GED</th>
<th>Some College</th>
<th>Assoc.</th>
<th>Bach.</th>
<th>Post-Bac. (Ph.D., J.D., etc.)</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Steve Daines</td>
<td>67.7%</td>
<td>59.7%</td>
<td>73.7%</td>
<td>68.2%</td>
<td>58.2%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Ballard</td>
<td>22.6%</td>
<td>23.4%</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
<td>13.4%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilmot Collins</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Mues</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 11: If the Election Were Held Today, Who Would You Vote For?

U.S. Representative

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kathleen Williams</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matt Rosendale</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corey Stapleton</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kathleen Williams</strong></td>
<td>40.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Matt Rosendale</strong></td>
<td>36.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Corey Stapleton</strong></td>
<td>15.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Joe Dooling</strong></td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Matt Rains</strong></td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tom Winter</strong></td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Timothy Johnson</strong></td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Table 11 Cont’d., U.S. Representative by Education Level**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>High School/ GED</th>
<th>Some College</th>
<th>Assoc.</th>
<th>Bach.</th>
<th>Post-Bac. (Ph.D., J.D., etc.)</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kathleen Williams</strong></td>
<td>26.7%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
<td>36.8%</td>
<td>26.2%</td>
<td>53.0%</td>
<td>66.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Matt Rosendale</strong></td>
<td>40.0%</td>
<td>47.4%</td>
<td>47.4%</td>
<td>36.9%</td>
<td>15.2%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Corey</strong></td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
<td>27.4%</td>
<td>22.7%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Table 12: If the Election Were Held Today, Who Would You Vote For?

#### Montana Governor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greg Gianforte</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Cooney</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Fox</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whitney Williams</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albert Olszewski</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casey Schreiner</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reilly Neill</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gary Perry</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Table 12 Cont’d., Montana Governor by Demographic

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greg Gianforte</td>
<td>32.6%</td>
<td>38.5%</td>
<td>34.8%</td>
<td>36.2%</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
<td>56.6%</td>
<td>35.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Cooney</td>
<td>23.8%</td>
<td>21.5%</td>
<td>26.7%</td>
<td>17.2%</td>
<td>52.6%</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 12 Cont'd., Montana Governor by Education Level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
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<th>Some College</th>
<th>Assoc.</th>
<th>Bach.</th>
<th>Post-Bac. (Ph.D., J.D., etc.)</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greg Gianforte</td>
<td>46.7%</td>
<td>38.5%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>37.2%</td>
<td>22.4%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Cooney</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
<td>17.9%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>20.9%</td>
<td>37.3%</td>
<td>66.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Fox</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>23.3%</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whitney Williams</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albert Olszewski</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casey Schreiner</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reilly Neill</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gary Perry</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 13: In Your View, is the Economy Improving, Staying the Same, or Getting Worse?
### Table 13 Cont’d., Demographic

<table>
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<th></th>
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<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improving</td>
<td>35.3%</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
<td>40.1%</td>
<td>44.0%</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
<td>68.4%</td>
<td>37.1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staying the same</td>
<td>30.0%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
<td>30.5%</td>
<td>32.8%</td>
<td>34.6%</td>
<td>23.7%</td>
<td>35.1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Getting worse</td>
<td>34.7%</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
<td>29.4%</td>
<td>23.3%</td>
<td>52.6%</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
<td>27.8%</td>
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</table>

### Table 13 Cont’d., Education Level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>High School/ GED</th>
<th>Some College</th>
<th>Assoc. Degree</th>
<th>Bach. Degree</th>
<th>Post-Bac. (Ph.D., J.D., etc.)</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improving</td>
<td>48.4%</td>
<td>46.2%</td>
<td>36.8%</td>
<td>44.7%</td>
<td>32.8%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staying the same</td>
<td>29.0%</td>
<td>30.8%</td>
<td>28.9%</td>
<td>31.8%</td>
<td>32.8%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Getting worse</td>
<td>22.6%</td>
<td>23.1%</td>
<td>34.2%</td>
<td>23.5%</td>
<td>34.3%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 14: Do You Think That President Trump Should be Impeached and Removed from Office?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Table 14 Cont’d., Demographic

<table>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>47.1%</td>
<td>58.8%</td>
<td>45.5%</td>
<td>62.1%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>90.4%</td>
<td>47.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>41.2%</td>
<td>34.4%</td>
<td>43.3%</td>
<td>31.0%</td>
<td>85.7%</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
<td>35.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t Know</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 14 Cont’d., Education Level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>High School/ GED</th>
<th>Some College</th>
<th>Assoc. Degree</th>
<th>Bach. Degree</th>
<th>Post-Bac (Ph.D., J.D., etc.)</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>60.0%</td>
<td>56.4%</td>
<td>61.5%</td>
<td>58.1%</td>
<td>31.3%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>26.7%</td>
<td>32.1%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
<td>30.2%</td>
<td>62.7%</td>
<td>66.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t Know</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Contact:** Sara Rinfret, associate professor and chair, UM Department of Public Administration and Policy, 406-243-4702, sara.rinfret@umontana.edu.
Alumnus Eric Sprunk Honored with Bucklew Service Award

October 04, 2019

MISSOULA – The University of Montana Foundation has awarded Eric Sprunk, a 1986 alumnus of the UM College of Business, the Neil S. Bucklew Presidential Service Award. The award recognizes Sprunk’s continuous support of UM since he graduated with degrees in business finance and accounting.

The award, named for former UM President Bucklew who served from 1981 to 1986, recognizes individuals for their extraordinary effort to deepen Montana’s understanding of UM’s needs and strengths. It has been given annually by the UM Foundation since 1988.

Sprunk received the award on Thursday, Oct. 3, at the UM Foundation’s annual President’s Club Dinner. Recent honorees of the Bucklew award include Dennis and Gretchen Eck in 2019, Mickey Sogard in 2018, Michael McDonough in 2017, Nelson Weller in 2016 and Deborah Doyle McWhinney in 2015.
Sprunk is a Missoula native who currently serves as chief operating officer for Nike Inc. He started his career at PwC and joined Nike in 1993. Throughout his career, he has continued his engagement with UM, serving on the UM College of Business Advisory Council and the National Advisory Board for Grizzly Athletics since its inception in 2000. Sprunk currently chairs the College of Business’ Campaign Montana steering committee.

Sprunk also gives generously to support business, athletics and the arts at UM. He and his wife, Blair, partnered with alumni Mark and Cheryl Burnham to establish Montana’s first-ever endowed dean’s chair position in the UM College of Business. The Sprunks were lead donors to the Eric and Blair Sprunk Student-Athlete Academic Center, which provides academic space and services for UM’s more than 300 student-athletes. Additionally, Sprunk and his family have supported a scholarship at UM in honor of his late mother, Rachel Sprunk Smith, a 1984 UM graduate and advocate for the performing arts.

Maintaining deep ties with Missoula and western Montana, Sprunk and his family support his Hellgate High School alma mater and other local organizations, including Soft Landing Missoula, the Watson Children’s Shelter and the Boys and Girls Club in Polson. The couple also actively supports organizations in their communities in Oregon and in Washington.

"The Missoula community and the University of Montana have had an incredible impact on me personally and professionally throughout my life," Sprunk said. “I value my relationships with the University at the highest level, and I am humbled and honored by this award.”

Sprunk received the UM Distinguished Alumni Award in 2014 and the College of Business Distinguished Alumni Award in 2004. He was UM’s Commencement speaker in 2018.

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Contact: Elizabeth Willy, director of communications, UM Foundation, 406-243-5320, elizabeth.willy@supportum.org.
Alumnus Eric Sprunk Honored with Bucklew Service Award - UM News - University Of Montana
Alumni Give $1 Million to Support Psychology Center Expansion, Mental Health Care

October 04, 2019

UM News Service

MISSOULA – University of Montana alumni Summerfield "Sam" and Julie Baldridge have donated $1 million to fund an expansion of UM's Clinical Psychology Center. The enhanced space will allow UM practitioners to treat up to four times more clients, a boon for western Montana at a time when increased access to mental health services is sorely needed across the state.

“As we seek to provide much-needed support for our state and region, this gift hastens our ability to provide long-term mental health solutions for western Montana,” said Jenny McNulty, interim dean of the UM College of Humanities and Sciences.

The gift – which counts toward a challenge gift pledged by another donor for this project – jump-starts fundraising
Alumni Give $1 Million to Support Psychology Center Expansion, Mental Health Care - UM News - University Of Montana

for a critical UM priority. When the challenge gift is met, UM will be more than halfway toward the estimated $5 million needed for the facility’s upgrades.

With private support, including the Baldridge gift, UM plans to renovate the first floor and add a second floor to the existing Clinical Psychology Center, built in 1984 and located on the south side of campus.

The center serves clients from around western Montana while acting as a vital training clinic for students in UM’s Clinical Psychology and School Psychology programs. Located on campus, it offers essential psychological services to UM students and others in the community, including adults, children and families. Adult clients come to the center for help with depression, anxiety, relationship difficulties, substance use disorders, health-related behavior challenges and more. Parents refer their children if they have concerns, including disruptive behaviors, attention difficulties, depression, trauma, developmental delays and autism, to name a few.

Alongside individual counseling sessions and psychological evaluations, the center sponsors a number of other programs based on the interests of current student clinicians and faculty expertise. For example, it offers men’s and women’s therapy groups, groups for panic disorder and a therapy group focused on the experiences of transgender adults. It also has a robust program to serve American Indian and Alaska Native students and communities.

The center is particularly valuable to clients with limited financial resources as it charges on a generous sliding scale, providing mental health services to Montanans who are least likely to receive services elsewhere.

“Simply put, if the Clinical Psychology Center were not here, many of our clients would not have access to mental health services,” said Raurie Birch, the center director.

The center’s student clinicians are trained to provide empirically supported treatments, including cognitive behavioral therapy, dialectical behavioral therapy and mindfulness-based approaches. Its clients receive research-based and rigorously tested treatments to help them achieve their goals. UM’s doctoral psychology program – the only one in Montana – is among the nation’s most competitive programs.

Once fully funded, the renovated center will have more treatment rooms with improved soundproofing and windows and will have new areas for assessment and research. The larger facility will allow faculty and staff to integrate students and providers from closely related areas such as social work, clinical neuropsychology and psychiatry to prepare UM students to be leaders in the interprofessional and integrated practice models of the future.
With the expansion, the center’s staff will be able to serve more clients. Faculty and students supervised closely by faculty currently provide 45 to 60 client treatment hours per week, limited by the number of service rooms available. With additional service rooms, testing rooms, training facilities and space for groups, faculty and students will be able to provide up to 200 client treatment hours weekly.

A number of indicators illustrate the importance of expanding mental health care in Missoula and elsewhere, especially in Montana. The suicide rate in Montana has been among the top five in the nation for the past 30 years, making suicide an ongoing public health issue. Multiple counties within the state do not have practicing behavioral health professionals. Specifically, there are 40 counties that do not have any psychiatric nurse practitioners; 40 without a psychiatrist; 31 with no licensed clinical psychologists; and 15 without a licensed clinical social worker.

“There is such great need for enhanced mental health services in Montana, and UM has all the necessary elements to grow and help meet that need,” Julie Baldridge said. "We are grateful we can help support UM's growth in a way that is sure to shape individual lives and Montana communities in a truly positive way."

Sam, a 1978 graduate in history, and Julie, who earned a social work degree in 1979, have given back to UM in numerous ways. They currently serve as co-chairs of the College of Humanities and Sciences Campaign Montana steering committee, and Julie is a member of the UM Foundation board of trustees. Their philanthropy to UM prior to this gift has supported the Department of Counseling, Irish Studies, the Neural Injury Center, the School of Art and Grizzly Athletics. The Baldridges were recipients of UM’s Community Service Award in 2017. The Whitefish residents serve in volunteer roles for a variety of community organizations in northwest Montana.

The Baldridge gift is part of Campaign Montana, the comprehensive, seven-year fundraising campaign that is inspiring $400 million in philanthropic giving to UM through 2020. Donors will help achieve UM’s vision of a university that puts student success at the forefront, driving excellence and innovation in teaching, research and learning. The campaign is managed by the UM Foundation. Visit www.campaignmontana.org to learn more.

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Contact: Elizabeth Willy, director of communications, UM Foundation, 406-243-5320, elizabeth.willy@supportum.org.
Alumni Give $1 Million to Support Psychology Center Expansion, Mental Health Care - UM News - University Of Montana
MISSOULA – Longtime University of Montana supporters Dennis and Gretchen Eck are once again enhancing infrastructure and student learning at UM. This time they have pledged $1.25 million to support the S.E.A. Change Initiative for UM Students, Rankin Hall Renovations.
UM Students, a new program that prepares women across disciplines to become next-generation leaders whose contributions will influence broad societal change.

The Ecks already have gifted funds to support the program’s first year.

“This extraordinary gift from two of our most generous supporters recognizes UM’s legacy of strong, bold women and will allow us to honor that legacy as we invest in programs that make good on our promise to create a more equitable society,” said UM President Seth Bodnar.

UM launched its broader S.E.A. Change Initiative – which stands for “Safe. Empowered. Accelerated.” – in spring 2019 to amplify its efforts to foster a safe environment for women that uniquely empowers all women to reach their full potential and accelerate them into careers of impact.

The Eck gift makes possible the related S.E.A. Change Initiative for UM Students, a program that will provide women students on campus with mentorship, research, entrepreneurship and leadership opportunities and coursework. The initiative also provides cohorts of undergraduate women with preparation to become supervised mentors to middle school and high school girls and young women, encouraging them to see themselves as impactful leaders.

“We have local, national and global work yet to do to ensure that society more fully benefits from the contributions of women,” Dennis Eck said. “This is not just a women’s issue. This is a societal issue, and the S.E.A. Change Initiative for UM Students is our way of saying that UM will be leaders for creating culture change.”

A native of Wolf Point and the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, Eck earned his degree at UM in history and political science. Gretchen was raised in Butte and also attended UM.

The gift from Dennis and Gretchen Eck will provide $750,000 over three years to support the initiative in a variety of ways, including the creation of new scholarships and internship opportunities. In addition, their gift includes $500,000 designated to seed renovation of Jeannette Rankin Hall, which will serve as the future home of the
initiative, as well as other existing University programs.

While nationally an increased awareness of and advocacy for gender equality is promising, the number of women in senior leadership positions remains vastly disproportionate. Statistics show women make up 51% of the U.S. population and earn more than 57% of undergraduate degrees nationally, but these numbers do not correlate with earnings and representation in leadership roles.

U.S. Congress is only 24% female. Women make up 47% of the workforce, but only 5% of Fortune 500 CEOs are women. Nationally, women have earned the majority of doctorate degrees for eight consecutive years, yet only 32% of full professors are women. The S.E.A. Change Initiative for UM Students seeks to address these statistics by seeding change further upstream.

While many institutions around the country provide single courses or one-time experiences targeted at women college students in individual fields, the S.E.A. Change Initiative for UM Students will provide coordinated programming across student experiences and disciplines. The initiative will serve as a model in influencing, empowering and accelerating careers of women students from across disciplines, including the humanities, the arts and the STEM fields.

Montana is the ideal place to launch such an effort. It builds on a long history of strong Montana women who persisted in the face of societal, physical and psychological challenges – like Jeannette Rankin, who graduated from UM in 1902 and became the first woman elected to Congress, and Elouise Cobell, a champion of Native American rights.

“This new program is an emphatic reminder that UM is an institution committed to equity for all,” said Kelly Webster, who leads the S.E.A. Change effort at UM as chief of staff in the Office of the President. “In the tradition of impressive Montana women who have come before, many at UM have performed this vital work for decades, and these new resources will allow us enhance our reach and impact.

“Real change requires persistent effort, and UM faculty, staff and students have long been generating meaningful change,” she said. “This gift will allow us to magnify and build upon their efforts.”

Institutionally, UM is committed to building a safe and empowering campus for all women through an array of programs, including its Women’s Leadership Initiative. In conjunction with the introduction of its S.E.A. Change Initiative in spring 2019, the University relaunched the cohort-based program for faculty and staff that focuses on leadership training and network building to establish a culture of support for women’s leadership.

As faithful UM donors since 1993, the Ecks have committed more than $8.3 million to the renovation of UM’s Liberal Arts Building in the past five years. UM has named the southern classroom wing of the building the Dennis and Gretchen Eck Hall in their honor. Their gift has supported classroom renovation, enhanced technology, upgraded infrastructure, a new building entrance and a renovated 120-seat auditorium inside the building.

The couple was selected as the recipients of the 2019 Neil S. Bucklew Presidential Service Award. On Oct. 4, Dennis will receive a 2019 Distinguished Alumni Award from the UM Alumni Association.

This gift is part of Campaign Montana, a comprehensive, seven-year fundraising campaign that is inspiring $400
$1.25M Eck Gift Funds SEA Change Initiative for UM Students, Rankin Hall Renovations - UM News - University Of Montana

1.25 million in philanthropic giving to UM through 2020. Donors will help achieve UM’s vision of a university that puts student success at the forefront, driving excellence and innovation in teaching, research and learning. The campaign is managed by the UM Foundation. Visit www.campaignmontana.org to learn more.

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PAYNE FAMILY DONATES $5M FOR MONTANA MUSEUM OF ART AND CULTURE

MISSOULA – From historical treasures of Europe to dramatic art of the American West, the Permanent Collection of the Montana Museum of Art and Culture at the University of Montana represents the deepest holdings of art in the state and is among the oldest in the Northwest.

A new $5 million gift
from the Terry and Patt Payne Family will enable MMAC to bring the collections into public view and engagement. A portion of this generous gift forms the lead investment to build a new home to manage and exhibit the collection.

The proposed Montana Heritage Pavilion will allow the museum to transfer thousands of compelling works of art from campus storage to display.

“We are enthusiastic to be a catalyst in bringing the art treasures of the University of Montana to the light of day so that they may be displayed for all to enjoy after such a long period of storage,” said Terry Payne.

The Payne Family gift launches efforts to inspire other philanthropic gifts to support construction of a proposed pavilion building. University officials will determine the campus location and design of the facility in the coming months.

“This addition to our campus will become an exciting destination in our community, state and region," UM President Seth Bodnar said. "It will be a place of gathering, but more importantly, a manifestation of our enduring commitment to the arts and history."

Among the works that will benefit from a new facility are the nine masterpieces that MMAC received in 2018 from the estate of Sen. William A. Clark. This collection includes a relief sculpture of the “Madonna with Child” attributed to Italian Renaissance sculptor Donatello and a painting by the 18th-century English artist Thomas Gainsborough.

“The MMAC’s Permanent Collection holds thousands of works of art from many cultures across time, representing more than 2,000 years of human creativity," said H. Rafael Chacón, the Suzanne and Bruce Crocker Director of MMAC. "What’s exciting about this particular moment is that, for the first time in close to 125 years, we are on the threshold of sharing that collection on a large scale.”

Terry Payne is a 1963 UM graduate who received an honorary doctorate from the University in 2014. Together with
his wife, Patt, Terry also has invested in the Payne Family Native American Center, that center’s Elouise Cobell Land and Culture Institute, and a number of student scholarships.

The Payne Family gift is part of Campaign Montana, a comprehensive, seven-year fundraising campaign that is inspiring $400 million in philanthropic giving to UM through 2020. Donors will help achieve UM’s vision of a university that puts student success at the forefront, driving excellence and innovation in teaching, research and learning. The campaign is managed by the UM Foundation. Visit www.campaignmontana.org to learn more.

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**Contact:** Elizabeth Willy, director of communications, UM Foundation, 406-243-5320, elizabeth.willy@supportum.org.
MISSOULA – Montana Public Radio will do the listening as it asks its audience to share feedback and support the local programs and news coverage aired daily across the state during its fall pledge drive.

The drive begins at 6 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 9, and runs through 9 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 15. MTPR hopes to raise $250,000 during that time.

“Pledge Week is an important –
and more importantly – fun week here at the station,” said Anne Hosler, MTPR director of membership. “Listeners pledging their financial support for the radio they rely on fuels our work for the next year. It's amazing how we fund this optimistic endeavor every year, one contribution at a time. We're so thankful for everyone who donates.”

Listeners can expect special music programs, including one live session. University of Montana School of Music faculty members Christopher Hahn, piano; Jennifer Cooper, flute; and Zachary Cooper, horn; will play in MTPR’s studios at 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 11.

Many listener-favorite and new MTPR shows will feature special episodes. “Wait, Wait … Don’t Tell Me!” will offer favorite moments from the show’s first 20 years, “The Splendid Table” will take listeners into the kitchens of some of their favorite people, and “Hidden Brain” will talk with neuroscientist Sophia Scott who studies laughter.

“We’re proud to have listeners who understand the importance of supporting our balanced and trusted Montana news coverage, as well as a wide variety of hand-picked music programs,” said Ray Ekness, director of the UM Broadcast Media Center and MTPR general manager. “But the local and national programs are expensive to produce, so we’re asking our listeners to help us reach our goal and keep MTPR on the air for another year.”
Listener contributions are vital and make up 75% of MTPR's annual income.

"We know our listeners are passionate about our Montana-made news and programs, but it takes financial support to make those programs a reality," Ekness said.

During the week, listeners can pledge by phone at 406-243-6400, donate online at http://mtpr.org or mail in pledges to MTPR at 32 Campus Drive, Missoula, Montana, 59812. The pledge drive and MTPR are made possible by the involvement of thousands of people making their voices heard for public broadcasting in Montana.

Montana Public Radio is a service of UM. MTPR FM broadcast stations include 89.1 Missoula (KUFM); 91.5 Missoula, city (K218AI); 91.9 Hamilton (KUFN); 89.5 Polson (KPJH); 90.1 Kalispell, Whitefish, North Valley (KUKL); 90.5 Libby (KUFL); 91.7 Kalispell, city (K219BN); 101.3 Swan Lake (K267BJ); 91.3 Butte (KAPC); 91.7 Helena (KUHM); 91.7 Dillon (K219DN); and 89.9 Great Falls (KGPR).

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Contact: Anne Hosler, MTPR director of membership, 406-243-4214, anne.hosler@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – Kaimin is a Salish word that means “paper that brings news,” and since 1898 the Montana Kaimin newspaper has covered the University of Montana with an independent student voice.

Now that 121 years of accumulated news coverage is available online in a searchable database
“The Kaimin is a valuable resource with demonstrated significance and use by the UM community,” said Wendy Walker, UM’s digital initiatives librarian. “The Kaimin is quite unique in that it is very independently student run and intended to be student-centric. So it is an important historical and current publication that documents the student perspective and the college student experience at UM and in Missoula. There’s nothing else quite like it.”

She said the library’s Digital Production Unit launched its ambitious plan to digitize the Kaimin six years ago. After a few setbacks and thousands of hours of work by UM students, staff and faculty members, this unique historical record is now complete.

“The library’s motivation for digitizing the Kaimin was that it would support administrative, popular and scholarly research related to the University of Montana, its people and activities,” Walker said. “We intend to continue adding new issues as they become available.”

UM’s student newspaper started as a magazine that was published monthly during the school year from 1898 to June 1909. It became a weekly in December 1909 and finally a near-daily publication in January 1939. The print publication returned to a weekly in April 2015.
Walker said issues from 1898 to 2002 in the new online collection were digitized from physical print issues held by the library’s Archives and Special Collections. Issues from 2003 to 2019 were supplied as digital files by students in the Montana Kaimin office.

She said the Kaimin archive is frequently used by students, faculty and administrators seeking historical information about campus events, programs and services. It also is used by alumni looking for information about themselves or their peers during their time as students. The archives also are used to answer questions related to the history of campus buildings and grounds, administrators and faculty, and programs.

The new database complements the UM news release database, which can be found on ScholarWorks at https://scholarworks.umt.edu/newsreleases/. Walker said the public now can contrast and compare the UM administrative perspective of topics in news releases with the student-centric focus of the Kaimin.

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**Contact:** Wendy Walker, UM digital initiatives librarian, 406-243-6004, wendy.walker@umontana.edu.

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Get Involved

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MISSOULA – The Max Baucus Institute at the University of Montana – named for Montana’s longest-serving U.S. senator – works to prepare the next generation of leaders and public servants.

To further that goal, the institute will present two exciting, free events at UM on Thursday, Oct. 10:

- “U.S./China Trade,” a conversation between Baucus and experienced diplomat Michael Punke, moderated by ABC News correspondent Gloria Riviera, from 2 to 3 p.m. in the A.L.I. Auditorium of the Phyllis J. Washington
“Winning the Shadow War with Russia and China,” a lecture with Jim Sciutto, CNN’s chief national security correspondent and co-anchor of CNN Newsroom, from 7 to 8:15 p.m. in the Dennison Theatre.

“The institute is proud to present these two high-level events for those interested in learning more about international affairs and understanding the current state of our world,” said Samuel Panarella, the Baucus Institute director and a UM law faculty member. “This is an excellent opportunity to expose our students and community to experienced diplomats and journalists who have amazing experience on the world stage.”

Baucus served Montana as U.S. senator from 1978 to 2014 and then was ambassador to China from 2014 to 2017. He will speak alongside Punke, a former U.S. ambassador to the World Trade Organization in Geneva. Punke also served on the White House National Security Council staff and on Capitol Hill and is the author of “The Revenant.”

Riviera will moderate “U.S./China Trade.” Based in Washington, D.C., she covers a wide array of breaking, investigative and feature stories for the ABC’s flagship broadcasts, “Good Morning America,” “World News” and “Nightline.” She also contributes regularly to ABC News Digital and ABC News Radio.

Sciutto’s evening lecture will discuss how Russia and China are carrying out bold acts of aggression and violating international laws and norms. Topics will include everything from poisoned dissidents and election interference to hackers, armed invasions, space warriors, undermined treaties and secret military buildups.

He contends what we see as our greatest strengths – open societies, military innovation, dominance of technology on Earth and in space, and longstanding leadership in global institutions – are being turned into weaknesses with alarming success.

Located in the heart of the Rocky Mountain West, the Baucus Institute invites policymakers, lawyers, politicians, leading academics and law students to interact on a global scale. The institute emulates the important bipartisan, consensus-building public service Baucus exemplified during his long and distinguished career.

In times when too few are engaged in problem solving and productive policy making, the institute fosters dialogue, trains business and government leaders, plays a central role in economic development and contributes to the national discourse on a range of important topics.

For more information visit [https://www.umt.edu/law/outreach/baucus-institute](https://www.umt.edu/law/outreach/baucus-institute).

Contact: Samuel Panarella, UM law associate professor and Baucus Institute director, 406-243-6623, samuel.panarella@umontana.edu.