

Montana Center for Inclusive Education at Montana State University Billings

Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Report July 1, 2022—June 30, 2023

The vision of the Montana Center for Inclusive Education (MCIE) is the creation of a fully inclusive society that values diversity. The mission supporting this vision states that MCIE serves the diverse population of Montana and provides continuing professional development opportunities for educators and direct service providers. MCIE also provides grant management and fiscal management for the Montana State University Billings (MSUB). MCIE is not funded through tuition income.

The programs of the MCIE include:

- Extended Campus
- Montana Regional Education Service Area III
 - Indian Education for All
 - Region III Comprehensive System of Personnel Development
 - State Personnel Development Grant
- Movin' On in Montana
- OPI Special Education Endorsement Project
- Work Incentives Planning and Assistance Program
- Evaluation of the Office of Public Instruction - State Personnel Development Grant through the US Dept. of Education to Implement the Montana Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)
- Developed the beneficiary satisfaction surveys for the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, Vocational Rehabilitation Services to drive program improvement.
- Partnered with the University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning to grow the Montana Strategic Instruction Model through support by the Educational Promise Foundation

Faculty Award for Exceptional Support of Students with Disabilities

Dr. Rhonda Dillman

Assistant Professor, Biological and Physical Sciences, CHPS



For nearly 30 years, Dr. Dillman has made student success her mail priority. While teaching very challenging classes and maintaining high standards, Dr. Dillman is able to assist students with disabilities in subtle ways to be successful. Many students agree she excels at accommodating them with tools they need to succeed academically, sometimes even before they know what they need.

Dr. Jason Comer

Assistant Professor, Biological and Physical Sciences, CHPS



Dr. Comer's commitment to student success is central to his teaching philosophy. He especially goes above and beyond to ensure students with disabilities have the resources they need to be successful. He is always quick to lend a helping hand and make any accommodations needed including talking with DSS and TRIO to see what he could do to better ensure their academic success as well as their safety.

MSUB Collaboration

- College of Allied Health Professions and Science
- College of Education
- College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
- Disability Support Services
- Extended Campus at City College
- Grants & Sponsored Programs
- Neurodiversity Institute

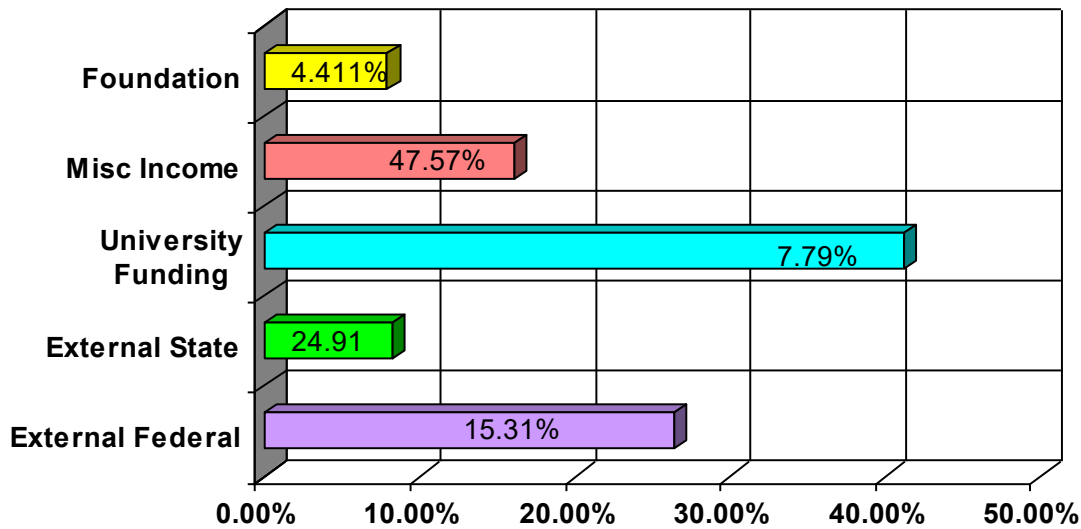
Faculty Collaboration

- Dr. Aaron Mertes with Montana Regional Education Service Area III and Comprehensive System of Personnel Development.
- Dr. Susan Gregory with the Special Education Endorsement Project

The Institute for Neurodiversity and Applied Behavior Analysis has opened its doors to serve neurodiverse children in Billings and the surrounding communities! The Institute specializes in Applied Behavior Analysis with a goal to create optimal treatment programs that are individualized per the needs of each person, while providing a unique training site for MSUB students to gain clinical experience. The Institute has started accepting clients for its Early Intensive Behavioral Intervention Program which will serve children from 18 months to 6 years old. The Institute's Social Skills program serves children from 7 to 12 years who struggle with navigating their social environment, and has already had a successful first session this summer.

The Social Skills program has also partnered across departments within the university to encourage the involvement of various MSUB students.

Montana Center for Inclusive Education Financial Report



- **Foundation: \$82,931.00.**

The MCIE utilized the Endowment interest to partially fund year three of its pilot project, Movin' On in Montana. The endowment interest was also utilized to fund ten student scholarships and two faculty awards.

- **Miscellaneous Income: \$893,759.94.**

Miscellaneous income includes Montana Vocational Rehabilitation and Blind Services, University of Kansas consulting, SPDG, Murdock Foundation, and Extended Campus fees.

- **University Funding: \$146,350.00.**

University funding appropriated to MCIE by the state legislature and allocated by the Board of Regents. MCIE receives a percentage of the facilities and administrative costs charged to each grant and contract written or administered by the Center.

- **External State Funding: \$468,047.95.**

State funding received from the Department of Public Health and Human Services, and the Montana Office of Public Instruction.

- **External Federal Funding: \$287,641.84.**

Federal funding received from the Social Security Administration.

• **Total managed funds: \$1,878,730.73**

Highlights of Fiscal Year 2023

- Eight proposals were submitted to state and federal agencies. All but one were funded.
- Movin' On in Montana is partially funded by the Montana Center Foundation and partially funded by the Department of Public Health and Human Services. The program is designed to provide Pre-Employment Transition Services to high school students with disabilities exploring post-secondary opportunities. During the 2022-2023 academic year approximately 45 students within the region participated in the program during the school year. Seven students from across the state participated in the week-long on campus camp during the month of June.
- The Montana Office of Public Instruction's Special Education Endorsement Project worked with 33 teachers and their support (school district, superintendent, principal, mentors, etc.) in Montana. In Fiscal Year 2023 11 teachers in the project received their special education endorsement.
- Work Incentives Planning and Assistance Program (WIPA) received 461 new referrals for July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023. Of these new referrals, 55 individuals were transition age youth, 15 were veterans, 274 were working part-time, and 64 were working full-time. WIPA initiated intensive individualized services to 348 clients in Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Idaho. Region III Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD) offered 43 professional development activities that were attended by 534 service providers, school personnel, and teachers-in-preparation. In addition, Region III CSPD provided 10 scholarships for service providers, school personnel and high school students to attend professional development activities offered by other professional development providers.
- The Montana Regional Education Service Area III (MRESA3) offered 9 professional development activities focusing on Indian Education for All that were attended by 131 service providers, school personnel, and teachers -in-preparation. MRESA3 also provided four scholarships to the Office of Public Instruction's Indian Education for All Best Practices Conference where its two IEFA presenters were recognized with the IEFA Advocacy Award.
- Ten scholarships totaling \$10,000 were awarded to ten students with disabilities at Montana State University Billings. Two \$500 scholarships were awarded to two faculty/staff members nominated by MSUB students with disabilities.

Future Priorities

- Increase the amount of the Faculty Award for Exceptional Support of Students with Disabilities
- Hire a new director for the Institute for Neurodiversity
- Hire a Youth Programs Coordinator to run camps and youth programs.
- MCIE Apply for funding opportunities that support the vision and mission.