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Kim Kaiser  
Graduation Date: May, 2000  
Degree: Bachelors of Science in Health Promotion  
Hometown: Billings  

1. Please describe your current employment and some of your job responsibilities:
I am currently Executive Director of the RiverStone Health Foundation. My role is to secure funding for community safety and healthcare programs to address unmet needs in local healthcare services.

2. Has your education and degree from MSUB contributed towards your career accomplishments? If it has, can you tell us how?
My BS degree in Health Promotion from MSU Billings prepared me to take on new challenges, never setting limits on what I can achieve personally or professionally. This was instilled in me by caring, knowledgeable professors like Dr. Ernie Randolfi. Dr. Randolfi is a great mentor to all his students and he pushed us to be the best we can be, to believe in our abilities, and to trust our instincts. My experience at MSU-Billings also taught me that learning is a life-long endeavor. This has inspired me to continue to pursue educational opportunities and this year I passed the Certified Fundraising Professional examination, becoming one of only 13 professional fundraisers in the state of Montana to hold this credential. In 2009, I was recognized by a group of my peers when I received the Outstanding Professional Fundraising Award from the Association of Fundraising Professional Montana Chapter.

3. If possible, please describe some professional goals you are still working towards that might tie into your past academic work at MSUB.
I have been fortunate to work for non-profit healthcare organizations since graduating from MSU Billings and I believe that continuing my education in the healthcare field is the way in which I can have the greatest positive impact on our community. This year I passed the Certified Fundraising Professional examination, becoming one of only 13 professional fundraisers in the state of Montana to hold this credential. In 2009, I was recognized by a group of my peers when I received the Outstanding Professional Fundraising Award from the Association of Fundraising Professional Montana Chapter.

4. Do you have any “words of wisdom” for current or future students in the College of Allied Health Professions?
Our community is only as good as its members. Applying the knowledge you have obtained to benefit the community will be rewarding. Strive to make the world a better place than you found it! Work hard, but always remember to stay focused on what is most important in your life.

---

Cathy Bealer, RN, MHA, FACMPE  
Graduation Date: May 2003  
Degree: MHA  
Hometown: Billings  

1. Please describe your current employment and some of your job responsibilities.  
Chief Executive Officer of Frontier Cancer Center.

I oversee three cancer clinics, located in Billings, Butte, and Cody. I am responsible for strategic planning and operational goals, business and financial operations, policy and procedure development, contracts, marketing, oversight of information technology and electronic records environment, financial analysis and managing patient accounts personnel. We provide chemotherapy, imaging and radiation cancer treatments to our patients in an outpatient setting.

2. Has your education and degree from MSUB contributed towards your career accomplishments? If it has, can you tell us how?
My degree from MSUB has contributed greatly to my career accomplishments. The job I am currently in requires a thorough knowledge of many things that I learned at MSUB, including financial and business operations, strategic planning, physician relationships, economics, pharmacy patents, contracts, policy and procedure development and legal and financial analysis. I had an RN degree prior to working on my MHA at MSUB and I did understand the clinical aspects of this job, however I needed additional skills in order to run this company. My degree helped me to become more comfortable with marketing and public speaking skills and I have expanded my confidence in meeting with Congress and other political entities in order to serve our patient population. This past August, I achieved the highlight of my career-- participating in assessing, planning, designing and making operational a beautiful new 39,000 square foot outpatient cancer clinic in Billings. I do not believe I would have been successful in my present job if it were not for the degree I earned at MSUB.

3. If possible, please describe some professional goals you are still working towards that might tie into your past academic work at MSUB.
I am pursuing the goal of becoming the MT Medical Group Management Association president. The work I did at MSUB was instrumental in helping me with self-confidence and management skills in order to serve at a board level. I would like to publish more articles and/or professional papers. The skills I learned while in this program were instrumental in helping me improve my writing. I am also pursuing the goal of improving our financial analysis in order to be able to inform our doctors where to focus for the future viability of our organization. With changes in health care due to the new laws, I want to be able to analyze what trends have occurred and what we should plan for in the future. Finally, I just received my Fellowship in the College of Medical Practice Management last month, which had been a professional goal of mine for several years. The work I did at MSUB gave me the confidence to continue to pursue this goal with confidence.

4. Do you have any “words of wisdom” for current or future students in the College of Allied Health Professions?
Yes. Believe in yourself and know that with hard work and persistence, your goals can be realized. Montana needs well prepared, confident leaders in order to move into a new world of chaotic changes in healthcare. You can be that one person who makes a difference in how the healthcare organization you work for will succeed in this uncertain time. There are so many opportunities in this field and you can positively contribute. Focus on all the subjects that are being taught by the very good instructors, because you may use some or all of them depending on where you find a job. I did not think I would ever use half of what I learned, but I can now say that I have used information from every class I took while pursuing my degree and it adequately prepared me to accomplish many goals over the past seven years.

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Health Promotion Graduates Earn Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) Credential

Four graduates of the Montana State University Billings Health Promotion program have passed a prestigious national certification examination administered by The National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc. (NCHEC).

“This is very exciting news,” said Dr. Agnes B. Samples, MPH, CHES, who teaches in the health promotion program at MSUB. “All of our health promotion students who took the national examination passed and received their CHES certification. Nationally, only 73 percent of the students who took the examination passed.”

“For our graduates, there are several benefits attached to the CHES designation. The CHES designation means that an individual has met national standards, helps employers identify qualified professionals and conveys a sense of pride and accomplishment in the profession. We are excited at the achievement of our Health Promotion students and we look forward to hearing about their future endeavors and accomplishments,” Samples said.

Health Promotion is a growing field of practice whose graduates are employed in all setting where health education takes place, such as schools, health care facilities, community health groups, businesses and government agencies. Health Promotion educators are employed under a range of job titles, including patient educators, health education teachers, health coaches, public health educators, and health program managers.

For more information about the MSUB Health Promotion program, or the CHES examination and certification, contact Dr. Agnes B. Samples, MPH, CHES, in the Department of Health and Human Performance at 406-896-5826 or email her at: asamples@msubillings.edu

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LINKS

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The ALUMNI Issue:

PROFILES:
Kathryn Norby
Kim Kaiser
Cathy Bealer

CAHP Advisory Board Members
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New West Health Services
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MHAP - Association of Montana Health Care Providers
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Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Ms. Marny Miller
President, MSUB Foundation
Dr. Tim Wilkinson
Interim Dean, College of Business

CAHP Connections
Fall/Winter 2010

Name: Kathryn Mariana Norby
Graduation Date: December, 2010
Degree: Masters in Health Administration
Hometown: Fargo, ND

1. Describe your current employment and some of your job responsibilities:

I am a physician recruiter for Sanford Health in Fargo, ND. I work with the clinical aggregates to recruit primary care physicians in Family Practice, Internal Medicine, and Dermatology for Fargo and the 35 regional clinics.

2. Has your education and degree from MSUB contributed towards your career accomplishments? If it has, can you tell us how? I work with Rural Health Center, HPSA, and state agencies to meet our recruiting needs.

3. If possible, please describe some professional goals you are still working towards that might tie into your past academic work at MSUB-R.

I completed my MHA internship at Sanford Health. The courses I completed were very helpful for understanding the complexities of the organization; the topics and issues we learned about became real life examples. I felt well-prepared with the education I received.

4. Do you have any “words of wisdom” for current or future students in the College of Allied Health Professions? Reach for your dreams! I never thought I would get an internship out of state (I was living in Belgrade, MT) at the largest rural not-for-profit health system in the nation. Think big and stay focused. Your internship can change your life.

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