

# Montana Center for Inclusive Education at Montana State University Billings

Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Report  
July 1, 2020—June 30, 2021



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).

The programs of the MCIE include:

- Extended Campus
- Hearing Conservation Program
- 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

## Faculty Award for Exceptional Support of Students with Disabilities



### **Michele T. McMullen, MS, MA, RDN, LN**

University Lecturer, Biological and Physical Sciences  
College of Health Professions and Science

“Mrs. McMullen is an outstanding teacher, and many of the things she did to help the class succeed helped me succeed as well. I appreciated her enthusiasm and her efforts to make the class engaging. She made study guides for tests and gave opportunities for extra credit. I cannot think of anyone more deserving of the Faculty Award for Exceptional Support of Students with Disabilities than Michelle McMullen.”



### **Ann Kooistra-Manning**

Advising Specialist & First Year Seminar Instructor  
Advising and Career Services

As a student with a learning disability which effects my ability to write, I often encounter assumptions from my teachers... This professor could see at times that I was struggling with activities assigned in class, and she was willing to adapt... She allowed me to use a computer in the class, upon becoming familiar with my disability, and worked with Disability Support Services to ensure that my accommodations were in place.”

### **MSUB Collaboration**

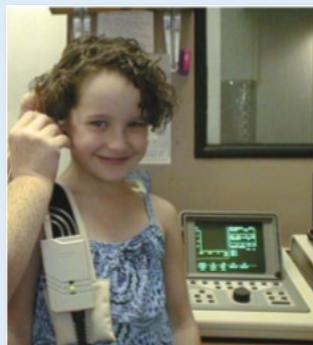
- College of Allied Health Professions and Science
- College of Education
- College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
- Disability Support Services
- Extended Campus at City College
- Grants & Sponsored Programs
- Neurodiversity Institute

### **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

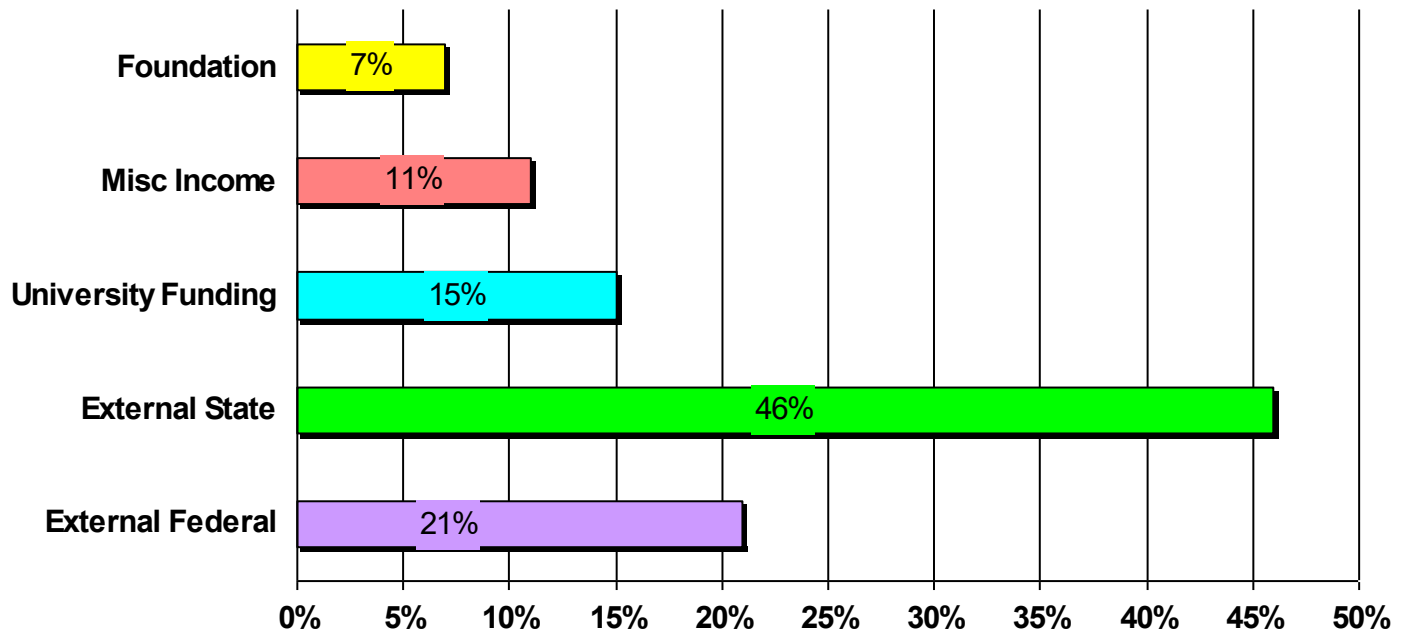
**For 35 years, the Hearing Conservation Program has been part of the Montana Center for Inclusive Education. As of July 1, 2021, the audiologist that has directed this program has retired. The Hearing Conservation Program will be served by Cascade Audiology.**

The Hearing Conservation Program conducted 3,426 hearing screenings during the 20/21 school year.



As of June 30, 2021, 44 children received full hearing evaluations as the result of a referrals through the HCP.

## Montana Center for Inclusive Education Financial Report



- **Foundation: \$68,712**  
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: \$110,155**  
Miscellaneous income includes audiology, Montana Vocational Rehabilitation and Blind Services, University of Kansas consulting, and Extended Campus fees.
- **University Funding: \$140,577**  
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: \$450,039**  
State funding received from the Department of Public Health and Human Services and the Montana Office of Public Instruction.
- **External Federal Funding: \$200,000**  
Federal funding received from the Social Security Administration.

## Highlights of Fiscal Year 2021

- 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 Montana Office of Public Instruction's Special Education Endorsement Project worked with 35 teachers in Montana. In Fiscal Year 2021 eight teachers in the project received their special education endorsement.
- Work Incentives Planning and Assistance Program (WIPA) received 282 new referrals for July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. Of these new referrals, 37 individuals were transition age youth, 23 were veterans, 166 were working part-time, and 28 were working full-time. WIPA initiated intensive individualized services to 243 clients in Montana and Idaho.
- Region III Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD) offered 39 professional development activities that were attended by 1,085 service providers, school personnel, and teachers-in-preparation. In addition, Region III CSPD provided 80 scholarships for service providers, school personnel and high school students to attend thirteen professional development activities offered by other professional development providers.
- The Montana Regional Education Service Area III (MRESA3) offered 13 professional development activities that were attended by 429 service providers, school personnel, and teachers-in-preparation.
- Ten scholarships totaling \$9,500 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
- MCIE Apply for funding opportunities that support the vision and mission.
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- Provide professional development to schools and community organizations.
- Continue to strengthen our partnerships within the Montana University System.
- Reapply for the National Endowment for Humanities Grant, *The Battle of Little Bighorn and the Great Sioux War (1876)*.
- Continue to support the Institute for Neurodiversity and Applied Behavior Analysis at MSU Billings.