

Montana Center for Inclusive Education at Montana State University Billings

Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Report July 1, 2023—June 30, 2024

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.

MCIE programs 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

Erica Shea Instructor, General Education / Reading



Erica Shea takes great joy in teaching. She loves the interaction with students -- seeing the moment when they “get it”. When Erica is asked to make an accommodation for a student with disabilities, she provides the accommodation and then asks what else she can do to help the student. Even when confronted with students with difficult challenges or even disruptive students, Erica strives to create a positive learning environment for all students. Last semester Erica worked tirelessly for two of her students with disabilities. An excellent instructor with compassion and good sense of humor, Erica creates an environment that is supportive and beneficial for all her students.

Sam Russell—Instructor, Welding-Metal Fabrication



Sam Russell loves to weld. Incorporating cold steel, a hot arc, and his talent to create the object that he sees in his mind. And Sam loves to help his students understand this process. The metallurgy, the chemistry, the cutting, bending, forming, and fabricating of anything from mining equipment to an intricate steel version of a Yellow Jacket (the school mascot). Sam is always willing to meet the needs of students. Sam and his classes made multiple modifications to the welding lab to accommodate students with disabilities and all students. This is an example of one of the many ways Sam makes welding a great learning experience for students with disabilities and all students.

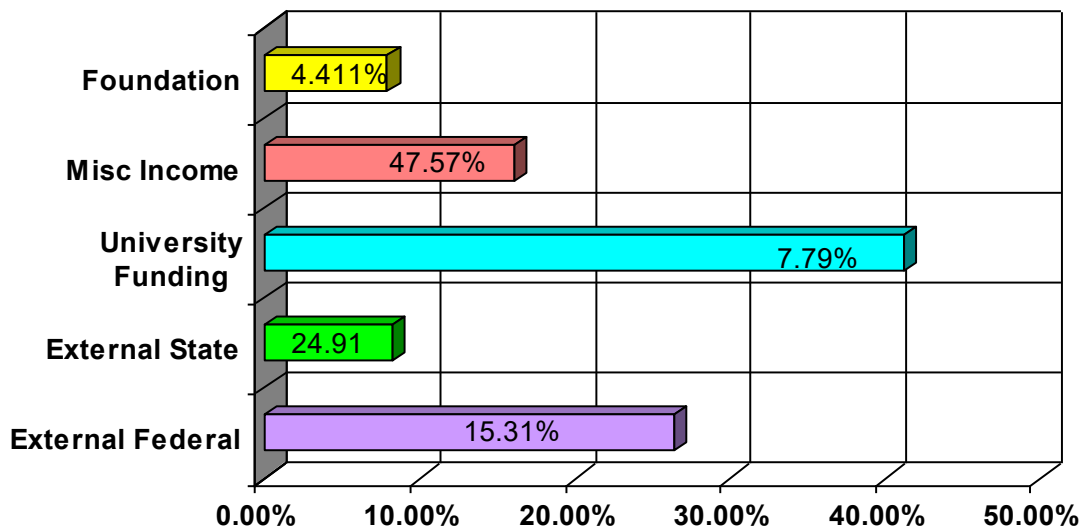
Faculty Collaboration

- 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

MSUB Collaboration

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| • College of Allied Health Professions and Science | • Extended Campus at City College |
| • College of Education | • Grants & Sponsored Programs |
| • College of Liberal Arts & Sciences | • Native American Achievement Center |
| • Disability Support Services | • Neurodiversity Institute |
| | • TRIO |

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 Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, Vocational Rehabilitation and Blind 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 2024

- Six proposals were submitted and awarded from state and federal agencies.
- Movin' On in Montana is a program designed to provide Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) to high school students with disabilities to explore post-secondary opportunities. The program is partially funded by the Montana Center Foundation and the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) through Vocational Rehabilitation and Blinds Services. During the 2023-2024 academic year approximately 28 students participated in three campus visits and virtual events. The summer camp had 14 students from across the state participate in a residential experience for a week.
- The Montana Office of Public Instruction's Special Education Endorsement Project worked with 28 teachers and their support (school district, superintendent, principal, mentors, etc.) in Montana. In Fiscal Year 2024, 5 teachers in the project received their special education endorsement.
- Work Incentives Planning and Assistance Program (WIPA) received 455 new referrals for benefits counseling services for Montana, Idaho, North Dakota, and South Dakota for July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. Of these referrals, 44 individuals were transition age youth and 21 veterans, 61 people were working full time and 284 part time workers.
- Region III Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (Region III CSPD) offered 21 professional development activities to service providers, school personnel, educators, para-professionals, and teachers-in-training. These educational opportunities were funded through a grant provided by the Office of Public Instruction. Approximately 451 individuals participated in professional development.
- Region III CSPD continued to participate in the five-year SPDG grant piloting the implementation of Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS). Within Region III there are three school districts selected to participate in the project (Lavina, Park City, and Lewistown). Entering its fifth year, Region III CSPD created a pilot project to have more districts implement MTSS within their school and across the region. School districts participating in the pilot project are: Broadview, Winnett, Canyon Creek, Huntley Project, Roy, Reed Point, Blue Creek, Red Lodge, Independent, Bridger, Grass Range, and Fromberg.
- Ten scholarships totaling \$10,000 were awarded to students with disabilities at Montana State University Billings (MSUB). 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 Montana Center for Inclusive Education
- Hire a Youth Programs Coordinator to run camps and youth programs.
- Apply for funding opportunities that support the vision and mission.
- Provide professional development to schools and community organizations.
- Continue to strengthen our partnerships within the Montana University System.
- Continue to support the Institute for Neurodiversity and Applied Behavior Analysis at MSU Billings.