

2009 Title II Projects

Before It's Too Late 5 (BITL 5)

BITL was originally awarded in 2004 and has involved a variety of different partnerships, all of which have included the Montana Learning Center at Canyon Ferry. The program is designed to increase student post-secondary school participation in five regions throughout Montana by increasing the mathematics content awareness in algebra, geometry, and statistics of classroom teachers in 6-12 mathematics.

During the summer of 2009, BITL 5 offers weeklong workshop with 55 hours of intense mathematics instruction for 25 participants. Participants and leaders collaboratively develop materials to share statewide via the Montana Learning Center web page to increase student success in 6-12 mathematics beyond the funding time frame of the grant. These lessons and supporting resources are available at <http://bitl.montanalearning.org/>.

The 2009 grant for \$60,365 is directed by Dr. David Erickson, from the College of Education at the University of Montana with partners from the Mathematics Department of Montana State University (Dr. Maurice Burke), and the Poplar, Froid, Havre, Missoula, Bozeman, and Hardin school districts.

Technical Writing Essentials for Math and Science (TWEMS)

TWEMS is designed to help teachers restructure math and science instruction to incorporate technical writing strategies, practices, and assessments. The project includes Summer Institutes, workshops during the school years, and onsite support (both online and in person) from facilitators to ensure implementation. The project focuses on ten high-need districts in the Montana North Central Education Service Region (MNCESR) and includes a partnership of Montana State University Northern, the Golden Triangle Curriculum Cooperative, and technical support from MSU Great Falls College of Technology. The grant director, Dorothea Susag, who is employed by the Shelby Schools, is managing \$117,492 in funding.

Writing Intervention Now (WIN)

WIN originally formed a partnership with UM Western's School of Education, The University of Montana English Department, the Montana Small Schools Alliance, and Alder, Anaconda, Grant, Jackson, Reichle, Wisdom, Wise Rive, Butte Elementary, Dillon Elementary, Lima, Divide, and Melrose School Districts. Because of staff turnover, the current project includes the University of Montana's English Department and College of Education. Project funds cover training sessions, research by participants into writing assessment and instruction, and the development, administration, and scoring of a middle school writing assessment to be used as a statewide model. The grant director is Dr. Claudette Morton of the Montana Small Schools Alliance in Helena. The award was for \$78,666.

Advancing Speech, Language and Literacy Services for Adolescent Students

The University of Montana's Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders in the College of Education and the Department of Psychology are providing curriculum for teachers and speech language pathologist in speech, language and literacy for adolescent students. (See <http://www.soe.umt.edu/csd/titleIIgrant/default.html>.) Using an efficient and economical system of audio/video web-based communication and instruction, presentations connect language and literacy and the psychological bases of adolescent learning. The lack of speech-language pathologists (SLPs) across Montana for two decades has had a devastating effect on the state, especially to children and adults with communicative disorders. To fill this void until UM's new department has graduated sufficient SLPs, this program is giving about 100 teachers the tools needed to work with these special students. This grant of \$90,190 is directed by Dr. Lucy Hart Paulson.

Improving Writing Instruction through Professional Development and Assessment

The University of Montana Department English and School of Education and the UM College of Technology partnered with the Corvallis, Superior, and Arlee School Districts to establish a regional writing assessment partnership that trained 47 trainers who conducted training for the Missoula region, as well as seven other regions in Montana in order to improve teacher skills in writing instruction. This grant for \$60,365, directed by Dr. Beverly Ann Chin, hosted Writing Assessment Workshops at three regional sites (Missoula, Kalispell, and Helena) for teachers, pre-service teachers, and college faculty.

Assessing Writing to Improve Proficiency (Central & Southwestern Montana)

Montana State University's School of Education and MSU Great Falls College of Technology partnered with Centerville, North Star, Belgrade, Gardner, and Sheridan school districts to host Writing Assessment Workshops in Bozeman and Great Falls and to provide an online course for high school teachers to improve writing instruction through online chats about students' writing weaknesses and how to overcome them. The grant director is Dr. Joyce Herbeck, MSU School of Education and the award was \$29,954.

Assessing Writing to Improve Proficiency for College (Eastern Montana)

The Department of English and College of Education at Montana State University Billings partnered with the Shepherd, Hardin, Wolf Point, and Glasgow School Districts to provide Writing Assessment Workshops in Billings, Miles City, and Glasgow to improve teacher quality in writing instruction. The grant director, Dr. Kathy Holt, School of Education, MSU-Billings, managed an award of \$26,453.