In 2013-2014, Great Falls College requested and was granted money to increase financial literacy awareness on campus through the College Access Challenge Sub-Grant (year two of the grant). In 2014-2015, Great Falls College saw satisfactory progress in the awareness of the program. The college is requesting continual funding to promote financial literacy for Great Falls College. This document will summarize the progress made in the last year and set the goals for the upcoming year. The goals for this upcoming year are similar to the past year’s goals, with the college adding components to increase the momentum of the program.

Goals:

- **Advisory Team**
  - 2014-2015: the Advisory team is made up of representatives from TRIO, Admissions, Advising, Financial Aid, Student Accounts, Students Activities, and Academic Support. The team meets on a regular basis (Quarterly) in which Best Financial Practice concepts are discussed as the program is reviewed and accessed.
  - 2015-2016: our goal is to continue with the Advisory team as Best Practices indicates. However, we are planning on incorporating faculty members on the advising team, as well as including students from student government and/or the student body.

- **Identifying at risk students**
  - 2014-2015: the Advising team determined that at-risk students were those who fit into the following 4 categories:
    - $10,000 or more in student loans at Great Falls College, MSU
    - Alternative loans from a third party loan provider
    - Have not meeting the Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements
    - Qualified for and accepted Pell grants and then taken out additional loans
    These students were sent a letter to bring awareness of their status.
  - 2015-2016: we are also going to include students who receive Voc Rehab assistance or GI Bills and still take out additional loans. Students will also be sent an awareness letter and encouraged to participate in Financial Literacy components i.e. workshops, getmoneysmarts.org, goal setting, and etc.

- **Strengthen Program Recognition**
  - 2014-2015: this is an area in which we feel made great progress. All things will be continued, including Facebook updates, presentations in COLS classes, and campus awareness. We have developed and purchased folders to hold financial
wellness literature to provide to students. We are, hopefully, able to use folders for the next 2 years.

- 2015-2016, our goals will be to promote the program even more by incorporating:
  - Radio spots
  - Monthly workshops
  - Folders given to all new students during advising sessions

- Emphasize data
  - 2014-2015: the program focused on better data collecting by being more thorough on data collection.
  - 2015-2016, data collection will continue with the addition of
    - Following students who received an awareness letter and observe any changes in financial choices
    - Follow students in COLS Class by creating a cohort that includes the fall students and follow them throughout the year and collect data on their knowledge of Financial Wellness.
    - Follow students who meet with Financial Wellness and observe changes in financial choices

To accomplish these goals, the College is requesting continued grant funding. For 2015-2016, the College estimates a budget of $30,000. The majority of these funds are budgeted for personnel expenses. The detailed budget summary form is attached; in short, the increase in Salaries and Wages is mainly due to the potential, mandatory increase in pay wage expenses for twelve months. The College recognizes the request for funding represents a substantial amount but believes that the single most important element to success of the program is the employing and sustaining the financial wellness coordinator.

The College is committed to continuing its efforts to bring financial literacy education to its students. The school year of 2014-2015 was a good continuation and we are confident that in 2015-2016 more progress will be made to strengthen practices that bring the MUS Financial Literacy Concepts and Best Practices into the forefront at Great Falls College MSU.