

**American Indian and Minority Achievement Report**  
**Board of Regents**  
**May 22, 2015**

**American Indian Advisory Council Update**

The 16-member Council met recently in Helena and is beginning to add detailed next steps under each of the identified strategic practices to improve the ways in which the MUS serves American Indian students and communities.

1. Creating welcoming and supportive campus community
  - a. Create inventory of current and best practices
  - b. Collect existing campus climate surveys, determine need for future system-wide survey
2. Developing and supporting culturally responsive staff, faculty, and administration
  - a. Centralize professional development resources and trainings
  - b. Examine need for policy language to encourage/mandate training
3. Strengthening relationships with tribal communities and tribal colleges
  - a. Review current practices, including state-wide efforts through Gear UP, TRiO, etc.
  - b. Analyze data on transfers between TCUs and MUS campuses to identify opportunities
  - c. Develop centralized source for pathways and connections to market
4. Clarifying and prioritizing the MUS' responsibilities under Indian Education for All
  - a. Use the vetted 7 Essential Understandings developed with tribal communities to examine current practices
  - b. Create pathway for campuses to engage in research on IEFA implementation
  - c. Understand that IEFA is not just about American Indian students, this is our opportunity to make Montana the gold standard globally on how to honor the indigenous cultures of our state

Next steps will be to continue sub-committee work through summer and meet in person again the Fall 2015. The Council is hopeful that by identifying best practices, opportunities for collaboration, existing challenges, the MUS will provide a learning and working environment that will positively impact the experience of American Indians on our campuses.