We exist to:

• Provide all Montanans with affordable access to excellent educational opportunity. Provide for a seamless transition from K-12 to college and ensure retention.

• Increase academic engagement and achievement for minorities throughout the MUS and the state.

• Ensure our campuses are places that are welcoming and primed for student success and at the same time make sure we are reaching current and future first generation college students.

Partnerships:

• The Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education has a presence in middle and high schools across Montana through dual enrollment, EdReady, ETS, GEAR UP, Perkins, ACT and Big Sky Pathway initiatives ensuring that each has a linkage to Indian Country.

• The AIMA Program oversees two college access grants and serves schools on all 7 reservations. The ETS Program has a $584,694 annual budget and serves 1287 students in 13 middle schools and their receiving high schools, providing college and career readiness services to students and their families. The GEAR UP Program receives $4 million annually and provides similar services to 18 middle schools and their receiving high schools. 12 of these are on or near reservation schools.

Goals:

1) Improve human capacity building and the development of relationships and rapport with our students to ensure an environment where students succeed.

2) Increase Student Access
   • 5% of all enrollees in the MUS are American Indian

3) Increase Student Retention
   • 52.6% of full time freshmen return for 2nd year (4 year)
   • 48.4% of full time freshmen return for 2nd year (2 year)

4) Increase Student Completion
   • 3.9% of all MUS undergraduate completions (246) are American Indian

5) Improve Tribal College to MUS relations

6) Grow availability of data