



# Montana University System

## iGraduate Montana

### 2018-2019 Grant

#### Funding

The Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation has generously provided the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education with a \$125,000 investment to initiate the iGraduate Montana project. In the first year of the program, \$106,000 will be distributed to communities.

#### Future of the Initiative

Through continued support from the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation, the iGraduate Montana project will be funded for at least four years. The goal is to increase the number awards by 15 for every year the program is in operation.

#### Grant Contacts

Erik Rose  
Director of Workforce  
Initiatives and Information  
Montana University System  
[erose@montana.edu](mailto:erose@montana.edu)  
(406)449-9133

Dylan Klapmeier  
Director of Communications  
and Federal Relations  
Office of Public Instruction  
[dylan.klapmeier@mt.gov](mailto:dylan.klapmeier@mt.gov)  
(406)444-3559

The Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education and the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation are pleased to announce that 15 communities have been selected for iGraduate Montana Challenge Fund grants in the initial year of the new program.

The iGraduate Montana initiative is in partnership with the Office of Public Instruction and the Montana Department of Labor and Industry to leverage the successes and lessons learned from Graduation Matters Montana. iGraduate Montana seeks to increase high school graduation and expand workforce development activities, such as connecting students to high-demand career pathways, and/or post-high school education opportunities. The grant funded communities will work to catalogue and disseminate their activities across the state.

With nearly 40 applications submitted, a selection committee determined the top 15 proposals based on criteria such as demonstration of need, scope of impact, and strength of partnerships. Below is a list of successful applicants listed in alphabetical order:

- Colstrip High School
- Columbia Falls High School
- Custer County High School
- Fort Peck Community College
- Great Falls United Way
- Helena College
- Livingston High School
- Lockwood School District
- Montana State University and Ravalli County
- Polson High School
- Pryor School District and Plenty Coups High School
- Red Lodge High School
- Rocky Boy High School
- St. Ignatius High School
- University of Montana – Western

Grants ranged from \$2,000 to \$10,000 and many focused on bringing relevant career and college skills to students through strategies such as apprenticeships, work-based learning, mentoring, dual enrollment, career fairs, and college visits. The grant awardees will be partnering with Montana businesses and non-profits to create opportunities for students to explore in-demand careers and gain real world experience.

University of Montana-Montana State University-Montana Tech-University of Montana Western-Montana State University Billings-Northern Montana College MSU- Gallatin College MSU- Missoula College UM-Helena College UM- City College at MSU Billings-Great Falls College MSU-Highlands College of MT Tech-Bitterroot College  
Dawson Community College-Flathead Valley Community College-Miles City Community College