

# Montana Educational Talent Search (METS) Summary

## Project Description

METS is a federally funded TRIO program by the U.S. Department of Education. It's funded to serve 1287 low-income, potential first-generation students in grades 6-12 per year, helping them complete high school and enroll in an institution of higher education of their choice. METS serves rural communities on three of



Montana's reservation and one urban community. These communities include nine school districts and sixteen schools. METS provides both group and one-on-one mentor sessions with a Pre-College advisor who educates and encourages students with curriculum designed around career clusters, college exploration, soft skills, and financial literacy. The program is funded at \$689,820 for the current fiscal year. The grant cycle is September 1, 2016-August 31, 2021. The program is entering its fifth year of the five-year grant cycle

## Project Staff

- Program Director (Jeannie Origbo) located in the Helena Office (OCHE).
- Program Manager (Derek Calvert) located in the Helena Office (OCHE).
- College Access Senior Manager (Maria Lillrose) located in the Helena Office (OCHE).
- College Access Manager (Angela King) located in Helena Office (OCHE).
- Pre-College Advisors—Staff are located throughout the state: Richard Mittens (Browning/Heart Butte), Shonna Dillon (Hardin/Lodge Grass), Carla Guarisco (Pablo/Ronan), Rory Haugen (Polson, St. Ignatius), Virginia Knerr (Great Falls), and Kim Wombolt (Great Falls).

## Program Objectives

1. Meet Funded to Serve Ratio: Must meet 90% to receive Prior Experience points of other objectives.
2. Meet Eligibility Requirement: Two-thirds (66.67%) of participants served during the project year must be both low-income and first generation.
3. Secondary School Persistence: 77% of all non-senior participants served each project year will complete the current academic year and continue on to the next academic year, at the next grade level.

4. Secondary School Graduation: 86% of high school seniors served during the project year will graduate during the project year with a regular diploma within standard number of years.
5. Secondary School Graduation: 20% of high school seniors served during the project year will complete a rigorous secondary school program of study with a regular diploma within standard number of years.
6. Post-Secondary Enrollment: 52% of senior participants that graduate with a regular secondary school diploma will enroll in an institution of higher education by fall term immediately following high school graduation or have received acceptance but differed enrollment until the next academic term.

Annual Progress Report for each grant year is typically due in the November/December time frame immediately following grant year (i.e. Year 2 APR will be due November/December 2018).