

September 15-16, 2021

ITEM 196-2009-R0921

**Request for Authorization to Plan, Program and Design up to 5 New Nursing Education Facilities;
Montana State University**

THAT

Consistent with MCA 20-25-302 (6) (e), the Board of Regents authorizes Montana State University to expend up to \$10 million for planning, programming and preliminary design of up to 5 new nursing facilities to be constructed in Billings, Bozeman, Great Falls, Kalispell and Missoula.

EXPLANATION

1. Montana State University (MSU) received a \$101 million donation to comprehensively transform the delivery of health care in Montana, particularly in rural areas, for the benefit of current and future generations. The gift will enable MSU to provide a best-in-class nursing program as well as to construct associated facilities to support the college.
 2. Similar to many regions in the U.S., Montana has a shortage of registered nurses predicted to increase to a 17.6% shortfall by 2030, a shortage of more than 2,100 RNs.
 3. MSU successfully graduates the largest number of registered nurses in Montana, and the MSU College of Nursing is poised to increase annual BSN nurse graduates by 67% in the next decade. Similarly, the College will increase annual Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) graduates – the “gold standard” for nurse practitioner education — as either Family Nurse Practitioners (FNP) or Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioners (PMHNP) by 255% in the next decade.
 4. MSU intends to construct new nursing education facilities in Billings, Bozeman, Great Falls, Kalispell and Missoula and will coordinate with local health providers on possible collaborative solutions. MSU currently leases its nursing education spaces in Billings, Great Falls, Kalispell and Missoula.
 5. This request is for planning, programming and preliminary design to determine scope that will strengthen a distributed model that has a positive statewide impact by preparing nurses in five different locations to best serve the entire state of Montana.
 6. MSU intends to review various methods of construction delivery with this initial phase. MSU will request additional construction authority once planning and programming have been completed.
 7. The work will be paid for using private donations.
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ATTACHMENTS

None