

**Montana Legislature Education Workshop**  
**Learning for Life: Pre-School Through Continuing Education**

**Saturday, January 10, 2009**

**9:00 AM to 3:00 PM**

**Best Western Great Northern Hotel – Helena, Montana**

**Workshop Goals:**

- Help legislators view education in a more integrated way, both in terms of the varied phases and functions of lifelong learning as well as the need for the many entities shaping education to better share leadership, goals, and accountability.
- Advance this view by sharing the experiences of practitioners in Montana and other states.

**Workshop Format:**

The event will be led by a dynamic facilitator and supported by knowledgeable panelists. Attendees will include legislators as well as leaders from the education community in Montana. The pre-lunch segment will set the stage with presentations and discussions with experts from inside and outside Montana. The post-lunch segment will feature facilitated discussion with participants.

**Materials:**

Handout policy briefs from varied Montana education agencies regarding their: (1) missions up and down the education spectrum; (2) prerogatives and jurisdictions; and/or (3) funding structures.

- I. **Welcome and Preview** **9:00 - 9:15**  
**Susan Fox, Director of Legislative Services**  
*Welcome; outline objectives for the day; introduce facilitator and important guests*  
**Facilitator Travis Reindl, CommunicationWorks, LLC**  
*Walk through schedule; outline ground rules for the day*

- II. **Challenges Ahead for the Montana Economy** **9:15 - 10:00**  
**Barb Wagner, Economist, Montana Department of Labor & Industry**

Looking to the future, Montana faces a combination of trends that will affect its ability to be economically competitive. This session will address some of the most critical questions facing the state, including:

- How are Montana's demographics changing? How will those changes impact its education system?
- Where is Montana now and where is it headed in terms of its workforce needs? How will those needs affect demands on its education system?
- What are the new realities of the global economy? How do they affect Montana? Is Montana prepared to compete?

**III. Key Elements of a Seamless Education System**  
**Travis Reindl**

**10:00 - 11:00**

Montana has taken important steps in building a more integrated pre-kindergarten through college system, so it is time to “take stock,” looking at how various efforts fit together and looking ahead to what’s next. This session will explore efforts in Montana and other states and nations to bring schools and colleges and universities closer together to provide educational opportunities for life, focusing on three key issues:

- **Vision.** Where does the state want to be 10 years from now in the percentage of its residents that have diplomas, certificates, and degrees? Do key groups share and own that goal? Can it fit on a billboard? [*case example: Kentucky*]
- **Policy Alignment.** Which state, system, and campus policies and regulations are helping the state meet its goal? Which ones are standing in the way? How do states figure this out? [*case examples: California, North Carolina*]
- **Accountability.** Is the state measuring what matters in relation to its goal? What does it take to have good measures? [*case examples: Florida, Texas*]

**BREAK**

**11:00 - 11:15**

**IV. Good Policy and Good Practice in Montana and Beyond**  
**Mr. Jay Pfeiffer, Deputy Commissioner, Florida Department of Education**  
**Ms. Randy Whitfield, Associate Vice President, North Carolina Community College System**  
**Regent Janine Pease, Kindergarten to College Workgroup, Montana**

**11:15 - 12:45**

Montana’s leaders are looking for tools and ideas that build on the progress being made building a more seamless education system. This session will highlight promising strategies in Montana and other states, focusing on the following questions:

- What works for: a) getting students on the path to graduating from high school and being ready for college-level work or workforce training? b) providing opportunities for students to get a “head start” on education and training after high school? c) creating pathways for adults to re-enter the education system to finish degree/certificate programs or update their skills? d) building data systems that help leaders make strategic decisions about resources and programs?
- What lessons have been learned in testing new strategies?

V. **Working Lunch**

12:45-1:45

Participants will be assigned to tables and asked to reflect on a series of questions based on the morning's discussion:

- What will be the short-term and long-term benefits of moving toward a more seamless education system? Short-term and long-term consequences of not moving in that direction?
- What are Montana's greatest opportunities for building on the work that has already been done?
- What are some of the top priorities for taking the next steps?
- What will be the greatest challenges moving forward? How can they be overcome?

*NOTES: Each table will assign a recorder that will report out in the following segment. Facilitator (Reindl) will "float" during the working lunch to gauge table progress in addressing the questions. Participants will be reminded that the purpose of the discussion is **not** to detail or endorse any specific policy change or initiative, nor is it to discuss the funding of any approaches discussed.*

VI. **Bringing It Together**

1:45 - 3:00

Recorders from table discussions will report out, and the facilitator will summarize/synthesize key points, engaging participants in a dialogue about areas of consensus and difference—and what that means moving forward. The Director of Legislative Services will provide wrap-up, thanking participants and concluding the event.