

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 sets the stage through presentations and discussions with experts from inside and outside Montana. The post-lunch segment features facilitated discussion with participants.

Materials:

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**
~~Todd Younkin~~Barb Wagner, Research and Analysis Bureau Chief, Montana Department of Labor & Industry
- a. Declining high school enrollment
 - b. Aging demographic
 - c. Global competitiveness: toward a “knowledge economy”
 - d. Workforce impact
 - e. Future workforce trends of the state

NOTE: Aim for 20-25 minutes for presentation; 20-25 minutes for discussion.

III. Chalk Talk: Core Elements of a P-20+ System 10:00 - 11:00
Travis Reindl

Presentation and discussion focuses on three necessary elements of a strong, integrated P-20 system: a) shared vision; b) shared policy alignment; and c) data and accountability. The presenter outlines these elements and the overlap between them, drawing on the experiences of other states to illustrate key points. Presenter engages participants in assessing where Montana stands in these areas.

NOTE: Aim for 30 minutes for presentation; 30 minutes for discussion.

BREAK 11:00 - 11:15

IV. Roundtable: Best Practices in Montana and Beyond 11:15 - 12:45
Moderator Travis Reindl

PANELISTS

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

Experts from Florida, North Carolina, and Montana share insights on state efforts to promote shared goal-setting and collaboration, focusing on areas such as college readiness, dual enrollment, workforce preparation, data integration, and more.

V. Working Lunch 12:45-1:45

Participants are assigned to tables (to ensure even distribution of legislators and education representatives) and asked to address three questions in light of what they heard in the preceding sessions:

- What are Montana’s greatest opportunities for building a strong P-20 system?
- What are Montana’s greatest challenges in building a strong P-20 system?
- How can these challenges be overcome?

*NOTES: Each table chooses a legislator to be a recorder who will report out in the following segment. Facilitator (Reindl) will “float” during the working lunch to gauge table progress in addressing the questions. Participants are reminded that the purpose of the discussion is **not** to detail or endorse a specific policy or funding of the same.*

VI. Bringing It Together 1:45 - 3:00

Recorders from table discussions report out, and facilitator synthesizes key points, engaging participants in a dialogue about areas of consensus and difference—and what that may mean moving forward. Director of Legislative Services provides wrap-up, thanking participants and concluding the event.