

University of Montana
\$1,500,000

Accelerate MT is focused on closely partnering with employers and the state to do the following:

- Provide easy access – in close partnership with employers and industry associations – to training and certification on the in-demand skills employers need...delivered both in person and remotely anywhere in state.
- Work closely with employers to build short-term, collaborative training programs with clear pathways to jobs. (Have already demonstrated the effectiveness of such an approach with ATG and Jackson Contractor Group here in Missoula.)
- Work alongside private and public sector employers to develop training programs for their current employees; a “B2B” model that helps employers develop their own workforce. (Already working with employers across the state to develop.)
- Internship/Apprenticeship programs with employers and industry associations across the state to provide on-the-job learning opportunities for students
- Strong partnership with Montana DLI to identify workforce needs and provide case management to assist individuals in transition from training to workforce. (UM’s “Become an Alum” program has already proven that such a model works.)
- Significantly expanded portfolio of UOnline offerings – 2-yr, 4-yr, and certificates – that Montanans can access from anywhere in the state. (Already expanding in this area, but additional resources necessary to grow portfolio of offerings.)

Other campuses and partnerships involved in the initiative**Campuses**

- Missoula College
- Helena College
- Great Falls College
- Gallatin Community College
- Bitterroot College
- Flathead Valley Community College
- Miles City Community College
- Highlands College
- Dawson College
- MSU Northern
- City College, Billings
- UM Western

Partnerships

- Cyber Montana – State-wide hub for Cyber Security
- Montana Geriatric Education Center – State-wide reach for continuing education of medical professionals
- Montana Public Health Training Center – State-wide initiative to provide continuing education for public health officials

- Montana High Tech Business Alliance
- Montana Contractors Association
- Glacier Country Tourism
- Missoula Economic Partnership
- Montana West Economic Development
- Montana Business Assistance Center
- Department of Labor & Industry
- Montana Economic Developers Association
- Local Chambers of Commerce across the State
- Montana Manufacturing Extension Center
- Montana Media Center
- Montana Restaurant Association
- Montana Banking Association (developed workforce needs assessment)
- Manufacturing Alliance 2.0 (Kalispell)
- American Council of Engineering Companies – Montana (developed workforce needs assessment)
- Montana Building Industry Association

Status update on the initiative

Prior to the funding distribution, UM had several programs and initiatives that created a foundation for the training programs which are now growing and developing. Those programs include the ATG Aim Higher program and the re-launch of Montana Code School and the Commercial Driver’s License programs. In addition to continuing collaborations with Jackson Construction and Glacier Country Tourism, UM expanded their employer trainings to work with Submittable, the Department of Revenue, and Elite One.

The AccelerateMT initiative is focused on the following efforts:

- Adapting or scaling existing programs at two-year colleges to facilitate faster and more flexible access to workforce training opportunities in areas of greatest need. Also beginning work with several tribal colleges.
- Coordinating with other AccelerateMT efforts funded by the State’s ARPA Workforce Commission that is developing and delivering rapid training programs in the Construction & Trades, Manufacturing, Healthcare, and Tech industries.
- Deploying a learning management system that can support statewide access to non-credit workforce-based training programs
- Building small consortia of “lead” employers within sectors and subsectors to develop and deliver trainings aligned to shared employer needs for new workers or upskilling of existing employers
- Expanding training programs and offerings
- Expanding UOnline degree and certificate programs
- Awarding credentials
- Conducting marketing and outreach to employers and potential trainees
- Capacity building with respect to scaling and replicating programs and trainee support
- Delivered a new course “Coding Logic” that for the first time to a technology company in April
- Added Data Engineering as a new program via the Montana Code School

Plans for carrying out the initiative for the remainder of the biennium

- Continuing to identify workforce needs and developing and delivering new and existing training programs that are responsive to those needs

- Deepening the engagement and partnership with employers, industry associations, other 2-year colleges across the State, Tribal Colleges and High Schools
- Roll-out a comprehensive marketing program to reach both employers and prospective trainees.
- Delivery of “wrap around services” for learners

Metrics used to measure success

- ✓ Number of new collaborative training programs with private industry partners
- ✓ Number of participants in, and credentials completed as part of, the UM-DLI ‘Become an Alum Program’
- ✓ Number of new UOnline program offerings across Montana
- ✓ Number of learners completing AccelerateMT training programs in the period split between employer training and individual learner trainings

Budget Update

University of Montana - Missoula College	
AccelerateMT	
as of 5/31/2022	
Beginning Balance	750,000
Expenditures	
Personal Services	298,396
Contracted Services	215,240
Supplies	9,471
Communications	8,300
Travel	198
Other Services	356
	531,961
FY 2022 Balance	218,039