

Montana Research & Economic Development Initiative (MREDI) – Private Match Strategies

1. MREDI grants are awarded after a competitive solicitation from MUS campuses. One of the core selection criteria will be the applicants' private match commitment (e.g. material and human resources they will secure from business & industry). Other criteria - such as grant potential to generate new businesses, jobs, and patents, and applicability to key sectors like agriculture, energy, and manufacturing - will also be considered.
2. A portion of MREDI grants will be dedicated to "core facilities vouchers," which will allow private sector entities to match their own resources with existing MUS facilities (e.g. labs, technology, personnel) in order to launch new technologies and businesses.

UM CyberHub Initiative – Budgetary Framework (\$1.5m total, for FY 22 and FY 23)

1. \$750K will support the development of Montana's first "cyber range." A cyber range is an environment used to simulate cyber-attacks. A good analogy is how a flight simulator might be utilized in training fighter pilots or a shooting range in the training individuals how to use firearms. Virtualization allows us to replicate the infrastructure for any organization and new attack protocols can be replicated as they are identified. The novelty is that it can be continuously modified to replicate infrastructures and attack vectors as needed. It is a paradigm shift in educating the workforce due to the interactive and participatory training experiences by students during these interactive training exercises.
2. \$750K will support new remote delivery technologies, remote training access facilities, required connectivity, and educational services to students and trainees throughout Montana. The UM Cyber Range will be used to serve cybersecurity education for the University system, high schools, State government, NGOs, and partnerships with private entities.