



Mandy Smoker Broaddus

Assiniboine and Sioux
Lemoore High School (CA)
Pepperdine University, BA
(English/Education)
University of Montana, MFA
(Creative Writing)
Education Consultant

Making Montana
PROUD

We are all so lucky to call Montana home - it is a beautiful place. We must continue to challenge ourselves to find inspiration and meaning in the place that we live and are caretakers of, in how we raise our families and hold our communities up. This is part of being a good steward, a good relative in our state, but it also includes knowing our history—the true history of this land, especially of the first peoples, the Tribal nations who have cared for it since time immemorial—we can build a better future, a better Montana. Then we will truly be a place that supports and includes all Montanans.





Shelby Cole

Gros Ventre & Little Shell Chippewa

Malta, MT High School

Dawson Community College, AS

University of Montana, BS (Human Biology)

MS (CMMB with an emphasis
in Immunology)

Lab/Research Manager

Making Montana PROUD

Know who you are and where you come from. Don't just be good but do good. Whether that's something you love or something beneficial to your community or the planet. Make sure your education continues outside of the classroom - there's so much more to be learned than what is covered in an academic setting. My advice to Montana students, is to surround yourself with good people, and if you don't have any, go and seek them out.





Shane M. Doyle, Ed.D

Apsáalooke (Crow)

Hardin High School

MSU-Bozeman BA, MA

(Native American Studies)

University of Copenhagen, Denmark, Ed.D

(Post-Doctoral Research

Appointment Genetics)

Post-doctoral Researcher

Making Montana PROUD

Black Elk said, “Strength and intelligence are not the measures of greatness; continuous effort is the key to unlocking your potential.” Barriers are a natural part of life, and we all must find our own way of discovering our inner strength and peace. Do your part to give back to your community and help protect the wild lands and wildlife that make Montana the last best place.





Meredith K Hecker, Ph.D

Blackfeet

Browning High School

Blackfeet Community College (transfer)

MSU-Bozeman, BS (Mathematics)

University of Montana, MS and Ph.D

(Math, Astrobiology & Education)

Deputy Director of Montana

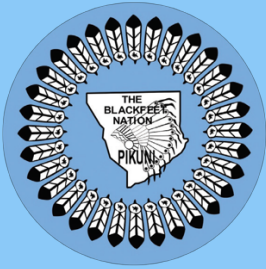
Space Grant Consortium

Making Montana PROUD

My education has opened so many doors, I can't even begin to count. I have traveled all over the U.S. and even abroad. I have worked with people from an array of different backgrounds which has given me a better appreciation of different cultures. I love learning and every situation gives me an opportunity to gain more information and knowledge moving forward.

Understanding that success comes from failures is important. Don't give up when you make mistakes, that can be the more important part of learning. Know that there are people all around you that want you to succeed, and don't be afraid to ask for help. This can lead to so many more different opportunities that you didn't know existed.





Brenda Johnston
Blackfeet

Browning High School
University of Montana, BA
(English Education)
High School English Teacher, Retired

Making Montana PROUD

My mother was my first inspiration and role model. She was a single parent in my early years, and I can still remember her telling my brothers and me almost daily that we needed an education. Later, as a teacher I tried to pass the same message onto students, telling them the country and the world need you, and we need your skills to make this a better place. I have faith that you can make changes that are positive, but we need you to be educated in the broadest sense of the word.





Roger MadPlume

Blackfeet

Browning High School
Montana Tech, BS (Mathematics)
University of Montana, MA
(Mathematics)
MSU-Billings Math Instructor

Making Montana PROUD

Everyone faces obstacles in life, and I'm no different. Some obstacles I've failed to overcome and other times I've been successful. A support system and my own perseverance have been the primary differences between my failures and successes. Resilience and persistence are critical in achieving anything worth achieving. Those who persist are the ones that find success. Through education I've been able to play college football, meet some of my best friends, travel across the country, and get a career that I love.





Reyna Monteau

Nakoda

Harlem High School

MSU-Northern, BS

(Elementary Education w/minor in reading)

MSU-Bozeman, MA (Educational Leadership)

Hays/Lodgepole Schools

Junior High Language Arts

Reading Intervention and History

Making Montana PROUD

Develop the love of learning. Anything that makes you happy can be an educational pathway. When a door is presented to you take it. Be the difference and lead with your heart. Resilience is finding your song, your purpose, through the trials and tribulations. It's always thinking about how to better the situation, especially when times are tough.

Our barriers become our strengths when we don't give up and keep a good heart about everything. Walk humble. Oshi Mani Wo.





Michael Marie Munson, Ed.D

stítlam ɬx^wix^weyuɬ smʔem

Séliš, Qlispé, *and other ancestries*

CSKT – *first generation descendant*

Big Sky High School

University of Montana, BAE, MA

(Curriculum & Instruction)

MSU-Bozeman, Ed.D

(Educational Leadership)

Department Head

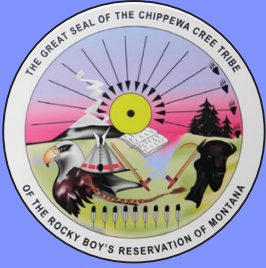
Culture & Language

Studies (CALs)

at Salish Kootenai College

I have built relationships with family members, elders, teachers, and mentors who have believed in me more than I believe in myself. The guidance, encouragement, and support given were what I needed the most. Our lives must have balance and it is important to acknowledge and work through the challenges and blessings. I am grateful they have taught me our tribal values and I am learning our cultural ways of being; they help me navigate my educational and professional journey.





John Murie

Chippewa Cree

Rocky Boy High School

Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA)

College of Great Falls, BA

(Art Education)

College Art Instructor

Making Montana PROUD

Love what you do and do it well. I was inspired by comic books and our own Native arts. The biggest barrier was leaving my family and community to reach my goals. My success came from my belief in our cultural teachings. My education has provided me with an opportunity to work within my community doing something I love. As an active learner I meet new people with new ideas and expand on my own teaching.





Jason Smith

Kootenai, Assiniboine, and Sioux

Polson High School

Salish Kootenai College, BA
(Business Entrepreneurship)

Executive Director of the Montana
Consortium for Urban Indian Health

Making Montana PROUD

I encourage youth to challenge yourself, even if it is uncomfortable to prepare yourself for your career and the journey of life to becoming a leader. Remember where you came from, and the leaders who came before you, because they built a roadmap for you to follow as a leader. A major factor in my success today is because of my own resilience. The support from my family and friends has also been key, in helping me lead and solve problems I face today and in the future.



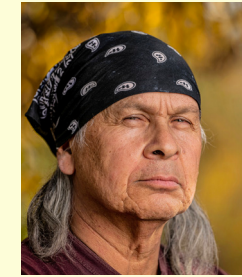
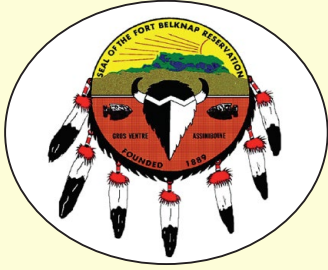


Christian Takes The Gun
(Awe aa akeen baachile)
“Good Fortune on Mother Earth”
Apsáalooke (Crow)
Hardin High School
Artist

Making Montana PROUD

Finding something that makes you feel like you're contributing something of significance to the world is true success. Don't just make a living, design a life. People will always have something negative to say about you no matter what you do in life. It's when you start to believe these things in your own mind that it starts to hinder your potential. Once I got over this thinking pattern and believed I could do anything, I started to progress towards achievement.





Robe Walker Basʔtsiihʔhiih

“a lot about a bird”

AhʔAhʔniihʔniin/Nakoda

San Lorenzo High

Ahniih Nakoda College

MSU-Northern

BS (Industrial Arts Broadfield)

MEd (Guidance and Counseling)

Educator

Generalist

Artist

Poet

Wildland Firefighter

EMT

Sculptor

Builder

Learning lives inside of you experientially. As much as and as often as you can, balance...practice balance...and move your awareness...make it come alive... then make it your own. Use your knowledge, develop your skills and arts, fully participate, ask for and offer help. Teach and treat each other with dignity... the best way you know how. The path you have chosen has to have your heart in it. The ones who went on before us knew we were coming. Now we are here for those yet to come...let's help make a worthy world in the same way. When you have developed a healthy and whole way of life you will never forget how to move forward...preparation...it's all preparation.

Making Montana PROUD





Roger White Jr.
(Wamni Jusina - Little Eagle)

Fort Peck Assiniboine/Sioux Tribes

Red Bottom Nakoda

Frazer High School

Fort Peck Community College

(Class 7 Certified)

Nakoda language Instructor/

Cultural Consultant

Making Montana PROUD

In our culture, children are considered the most sacred and we must teach them well. In Nakoda we say... Wichoh'a Yanibikte eno – the First Nations cultures will always give us life. Look at what our ancestors went through to get us where we are at today and understand where you come from, and then you can understand where you can go. Mnihe'inchiya – take courage. Wagan Eyabich – rise up and take it beyond into the future.

