

**Browning Middle/High School GEAR UP
October 2021 Board Report**

BHS GEAR UP

We had the following activities this month:

**FAFSA Night*

We hosted our first FAFSA event on Tuesday, October 5th to help Seniors and their parents complete this application for financial aid. We also covered college enrollment topics including college fit, dual enrollment and scholarship opportunities. BCC sent several representatives to talk with our students about BCC and FAFSA tips. Lyle McDonald from Blackfeet Tribe Higher Ed also talked about the tribe's scholarship program.

**Senior Campus Visit*

We had 11 seniors join us for this trip on October 13th-15th. We toured 4 college campuses: SKC, University of Montana, and the 2 Missoula College campuses – River and West. Students got the opportunity to sit in on 2 college classes – a biology class at the main campus and a communications class at the 2 year campus.

**Financial Literacy*

Shawn Spruce from First Nations Development Institute did grade level assemblies on financial literacy on October 18th-19th. Students learned some budgeting, banking and investment skills. Matt Harrington from NACDC organized this event for us and also promoted Mini Bank. A number of gift cards (over \$1000) were awarded to students in random drawings for attending this event.

**GEAR UP Career/College Prep Advisory Lessons*

For the Wednesday GEAR UP advisory lessons this month, we have been exploring goals, interests and plans for high school and beyond.

**College Application Week*

We participated in Montana's College Application Week October 4th-15th. We are waiting for the State Office to share the number of participants we had. Our numbers will be lower than expected as the day we had scheduled this as an activity for Seniors was the day that our internet was down.

We just got word that we again received the Higher Pathways \$3,000 grant from the American Indian College Fund. Most of this money will go to scholarships (4 - \$500) and the rest will be used for snacks and incentives. This grant will focus on getting as many of our Seniors as possible to complete the FAFSA (and the college application) by the December 1st priority deadline.

BMS GEAR UP

**National GEAR UP Week (September 21-25th)*

In celebration of National GEAR UP Week, Nathan scheduled various activities in the school: dress up days, "After I Graduate from High School" certificates, design your own college pennant, dream wall, door decorations. We also served cake to students and staff this week.

** College Application Week*

Our program hosted an activity during this high school event, where our 7th and 8th grade middle school students worked on a "mock" College application.

**Nate has been also helping at the high school with our Dual Enrollment students until we get that position filled.*