

My Home, My Health |



Place-Based Public Resources for Rural Educators Fact Sheet

RESEARCH PARTNERS

Montana State University (MSU) and Blackfeet Community College (BCC)

FUNDING AGENCY

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

PURPOSE OF RESEARCH AND BENEFITS TO BLACKFEET TRIBE

This project seeks to increase children's learning and engagement in science by activating their curiosity through place-based knowledge and Native ways of knowing. BCC students will create place-based lessons that infuse Native science and showcase BCC research. Increasing the understanding of and interest in science among Blackfeet youth, will help prepare students for careers in science and technology that can benefit tribe in areas ranging from health, to agriculture, to the environment. Once the lessons have been pilot tested, local educators will be provided the materials and offered training in how to use them most effectively.

RESEARCHERS

- Jamie Cornish, Science Outreach and Education Specialist, Academic Technology & Outreach, MSU
- Kim Paul of the Piikani Lodge Institute
- Betty Henderson-Matthews, Math/Science Division Chair at Blackfeet Community College
- Rebekah Hammack, Assistant Professor in Science Education, MSU
- Selena Ahmed, Associate Professor in Sustainable Food Systems, MSU
- Nora Smith, Project Manager, Academic Technology & Outreach, MSU

ROLE OF BROWNING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BCC students will pilot the activities with youth ages 8-14 gathering basic feedback on how engaging the activities are. The activities will be piloted in both formal and informal educational settings such as community science nights, afterschool programs, camps, and classroom visits. Data collected from students will be in the form of pre/post knowledge assessment and Science Activation surveys; observations of participation in kit activities; interviews; and artifacts generated during kit participation. All data collected from students will be anonymous and voluntary. Students will be able to withdraw from participating at any time. Once the activities are finalized and there is data to indicate their effectiveness, local educators will be provided with all the materials and training necessary to implement the activities. BCC students will run

all the activities so local teachers will not experience any additional workload.

Matthew Johnson, Director of Alternative and Community Education for Browning Public Schools, is serving on the advisory board, and he and Melody Magee, GEAR-Up Liaison at Browning Middle and High Schools will facilitate communication with the school district and help ensure the project is successful in its implementation.