

Buffalo Hide Academy April Board Report 2023

MSU CAMPUS VISIT

In hopes to build an ongoing relationship between Buffalo Hide and MSU Mr. Rink and Mrs. Boyce worked with Dr. Christine Stanton to organize and execute another “repositioning” project following the map laid out by Mr. Rink and Dr. Petrone’s work in 2017-2018 that ultimately led to the article published in the Harvard Educational Review. Five students accompanied the two teachers on a two-night trip to visit MSU’s campus in Bozeman. See Appendix for the itinerary.

The trip was an overwhelming success, but not without its challenges. Students overcame intense feelings of anxiety and self-consciousness to be able to open up and share in college classes composed of future secondary teachers. Just the trip alone was anxiety producing for some of our students. They aren’t all used to traveling to cities in Montana, staying in hotels and walking busy sidewalks. But by the last class Tuesday evening, they had relaxed into their roles of providing the critical insight they have about education because of their experiences that have led them to our alternative school, and they all delivered stunning perspectives for future teachers creating an opportunity for a paradigm change that allows them to see the humanity in their future students and hopefully help those students avoid the need for an “alternative” education.

MSU compensated our students with \$100 gift cards for their expert perspectives to honor the contribution and value they brought to the classes they presented in. MSU also financed the entire trip: Transportation, housing, and lodging, thanks to the organizational work and grants received by Dr. Christine Stanton.

Our goal is to get a line item in MSU’s budget to make this collaboration fruitful every year moving forward, as it has been transformational for our students as well as education students at MSU and the faculty and staff there that have been a part of it. During our last session, our students had the education department chair in tears as she listened to the positive effects our humanizing “student centered” approach has on our students. She said after our students had finished presenting, “I taught high school for years at the beginning of my career and I was always getting in trouble by my administration for trying to do the things you do at your school. It was to the point where I didn’t even believe it was possible in schools to humanize students the way you do. I can’t express how cathartic it is to know there is a school out there that is actually doing it!”

APPENDIX

EMAIL FROM DR. CHRISTINE STANTON LAYING OUT SCHEDULE

Hi, Nick and Katie.

Here's the current agenda for the next couple of days. Again, this is all entirely flexible. We want to make sure your students are able to do the things they want to, feel they can speak (or not speak) as much as they want, and have a good time. I can only imagine how overwhelming a visit like this can be (energizing, but exhausting at the same time...).

I'm planning to be with y'all as much as possible tomorrow, mostly to support logistics, listen, learn, and stay out of the way. Please don't hesitate to call or text at any time w/ questions, concerns, ideas, etc. I can meet you in the lobby of American Indian Hall at 10:40 tomorrow, if that works for you, and we can go to Dani's class together. Or, I can just meet you there.

Monday, April 24:

- Buffalo Hide group travels from Browning to Bozeman
- Afternoon/Evening shopping, hot springs, or other
- **Dinner at Olive Garden 5-7 p.m.** (we have the "Family Room" reserved and will hopefully have a few guests joining in person and virtually, including Dani Morrison and Twila Miner; I teach an online doctoral course called Leading Social Justice during that timeframe, and Dani and Twila will be facilitating activities—see below)
- **Stay at C'Mon Inn**

Tuesday, April 25:

- Breakfast at C'Mon Inn
- Dani Morrison's Native American Studies Class (Montana Indians Culture, History, and Current Issues) 10:50-12:05 in American Indian Hall 166
- Allison Wynhoff-Olsen's English Methods class 12:15-1:30 Reid 223
- Lunch at Rendezvous Dining Hall 1:30-3:00
- Tour of American Indian Hall 3:00-4:00 (with LaTrell)
- Break/Free Time 4:00-4:30

- Talking Circle and Dinner (Norm Asbjorjnsen Hall 149) 4:30-7:00 (with social studies methods students, Department of Ed leadership, and other teacher education program students and guests). Dinner will include beef chili and 3 sisters soup, cornbread muffins, water and lemonade (it's not super extensive).
- Evening activities or return to C'Mon Inn

Wednesday, April 26:

- Breakfast at C'Mon Inn
- Activities in Bozeman or area (hike? movie? downtown? mall? other?)
- Return to Browning

PHOTOS FROM THE TRIP











Hella studios

