CELEBRATING OUR HERITAGE AND TAKING BOLD STEPS FORWARD.

WHAT IT TAKES
The Campaign for MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
As Montana’s first land grant institution, Montana State University was founded on a visionary idea – that access to higher education is critical to social and economic development, as well as the strength of American democracy – and that every student, regardless of background or family finances, has the right to pursue and attain a college degree. Once in school, it is our continued responsibility to provide the resources and support to make sure our students stay and graduate.

Almost fifteen years ago, MSU launched an ambitious fundraising project to support construction of an American Indian hall, a campus home for our growing number of American Indian students. MSU expects to reach enrollment of over 1,000 American Indian students by fall of 2020, making our need for the student center critical.

MSU received a very generous gift in support of the American Indian Hall this past October bringing our total fundraising effort to (just shy of) $19MM towards a $20MM goal. We are optimistic that we can find donors committed to helping us finish this critical American Indian student success project by year end.

The American Indian Hall will be a campus home for our native students, a place to share meals, meet with each other and with students from other backgrounds. A gathering room will create space where people come together to share the collective wisdom of their history, a place to speak openly and honestly, a place to practice native ceremony and culture. Additional rooms will house tutoring, counseling and mentoring, a kitchen, a drum room, space for Elders to provide counsel, and of course, rooms for students to visit, study or work on projects.

The American Indian Hall will also serve as a bridge between American Indian and other cultures, welcoming our native and non-native visitors alike, raising the
profile of our American Indian population on campus, and bringing into sharper focus their community. The new American Indian Hall will provide a dedicated space for interchange that will focus on education and will celebrate the unique diversity we share.

With President Cruzado’s leadership, several committees comprised of representatives from across campus have been assembled to guide the process of programming and designing MSU’s new American Indian Hall.

Your thoughts are welcome as we embark on this task.

Building upon original concepts developed by Dennis Sun Rhodes of the Northern Arapaho and MSU Alumnus from the School of Architecture, the design of the building and accompanying grounds will be guided by a number of important constituents: President Cruzado’s Council of Elders; the Native American Studies department at MSU; the American Indian Council (a student organization); our partners at the seven Tribal Colleges in Montana; the Associated Students of MSU; tribal elders from around the region; and interested community members.

The people of Montana want to write a new chapter based on trust and understanding among groups with diverse interests and world views. We all must be a part of this important conversation. The American Indian Hall at MSU will help advance that aspiration and allow our native sons and daughters to spread their knowledge within and beyond the reservation borders, into the world we now live. Our hope is that we can create a better future for everyone from this place, this educational home for our future American Indian leaders and all MSU students.

The American Indian Hall is in preliminary design with programming to include:

- Three classrooms including outdoor learning space for students
- Academic collaboration spaces and large conference room
- Small conference room and Elder meeting spaces;
- Student success center offices with flex space for future offices
- Student room with kitchen, childcare area, library, computer room and study carrels
- Gathering area for day-to-day student study and meeting use and for larger presentations, meetings, banquets and tribal gatherings
- Drum room
- Large storage area to serve the multi-functionality of the building
- Exterior interpretative trail system for education on native plants and their uses as well as tribal narratives
- Lower level for program growth space, utilities and additional storage
- Cultural activities center
- Space for Native American Studies administration and faculty, the Senior Diversity and Inclusion Officer and counseling offices

CONCEPTUAL FLOOR PLANS

Lower level concept  Main level concept  Upper level concept
A CROSSROADS OF CULTURE AND STUDENT SUPPORT.

CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN

1. Entry plaza
2. Air, water, fire, earth - symbolic stone inlay
3. South garden walk
4. Drum plaza
5. Maintenance parking
6. Fire pit/outdoor classroom
7. Interpretative medicinal/edible garden
8. Pathway to campus

JOIN US FOR A GROUNDBREAKING CELEBRATION
Friday, March 29 at 3 p.m., followed by MSU Spring Powwow

Your comments and ideas are welcome. Follow the design process and let us know what you think at montana.edu/aih.

To email comments or to speak to someone about the project:

Walter Fleming, Director
NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
wfleming@montana.edu
406-994-3881

Jaclyn Liebscher, Project Manager
CAMPUS PLANNING, DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
jaclyn.liebscher@montana.edu
406-994-5413