

MSU PARTNERS WITH GALLATIN VALLEY FOOD BANK ON AARP GRANT FOR SENIOR FOOD SECURITY



The AARP Foundation recently awarded \$3.7 million in grants to ten non-profit organizations across the United States, and a partnership between the Human Resource Development Council's (HRDC) Gallatin Valley Food Bank (GVFB) and Montana State University received one of the Hunger Innovation Grants totaling \$199,239. Assistant professor of food and nutrition, Carmen Byker, and Lori Christenson, program manager of the GVFB, partnered to write the two-year grant, which examines how to increase food security and well-being of rural seniors in southwest Montana. The integral partnership with MSU will bring a student-run mobile farm stand, intergenerational interactions, and culinary collaborations to outlying communities.

"The mobile farm stand will bring fresh produce from MSU's Towne's Harvest Garden to seniors age 50 and older in communities," said Byker, "and the GVFB will supplement food outside the growing season, while the HRDC's Homemaker Program will work with students to strategize ways for seniors to utilize mobile market foods in-home."

Other HHD faculty and MSU students are also involved in the grant. Alison Harmon, associate professor in food and nutrition, will work with MSU students to study learning outcomes related to developing a mobile farm stand and examine the impact of intergenerational interactions. Dawn Tarabochia, assistant professor in community health, will examine the social and psychological wellness of seniors and explore how social networks help seniors procure food in rural areas. MSU undergraduates and graduates will be involved with marketing, coordinating, researching, and recipe development.

Byker said, "AARP awards the Hunger Innovation projects to a select few non-profit organizations, and they really liked the integration of the Food Bank and other HRDC programs with Montana State University."

AARP Foundation is working to win back opportunity for struggling Americans 50+ by being a force for change on the most serious issues they face today: housing, hunger, income and isolation. By coordinating responses to these issues on all four fronts at once, and supporting them with vigorous legal advocacy, the Foundation serves the unique needs of those 50+, while working with local organizations nationwide to reach more people, work more efficiently and make resources go further. AARP Foundation is the charitable affiliate of AARP. Learn more at www.aarpfoundation.org

5TH COHORT OF ECEDP STUDENTS BEGIN COURSEWORK



ECECP students receive instruction on their new laptops.

In January, the newest cohort of Early Childhood Education Distance Learning students was on the MSU campus learning how to use their new laptop computers and becoming acquainted with D2L technology. The fifth cohort of 35 students will be taking online classes to earn a bachelor's degree in early childhood education. Director Laura Massey, professor of early childhood education, has been educating Head Start teachers on Montana Indian reservations since 2000 and received a \$1.2 million federal grant in 2007 to enhance the program. She recently received another \$1.2 million grant to continue with the most recent cohort. Since its inception, ECEDP has trained more than 70 Native American Head Start teachers on Montana Indian reservations.

1ST ANNUAL FCS VALENTINE ALUMNAE LUNCH

On February 14, faculty in family and consumer sciences invited FCS alumni who work at MSU to an informal Valentine's sack lunch in Herrick Hall Lounge. Faculty members Sandy Osborne, Debby Haynes, and Holly Hunts hosted and provided dessert for those attending. After giving attendees an update on happenings in FCS, faculty said were proud of their former students for taking what they learned in FSC and transferring it to what they do on campus.

Those attending and their department were: Jennifer Storment, Dean's Office Letters and Science; Korri Miller, the Child Development Center in Herrick Hall; Tiffany Krushensky, the Early Childhood Project; Beth Littlefield, Financial Aid Office; Janell Barber, HR/Affirmative Action; Makiko Diehl, Office of International Programs; Theresa Marchwick, HR/Affirmative Action; and Christie Schaff, course assistant for financial counseling for Debby Haynes.



FCS Valentine's Day lunch in the Herrick Hall Lounge

EDUCATION STUDENTS HELP EVALUATE MOR EXHIBIT

For the past year, Lynn Kelting-Gibson, assistant professor of classroom assessment, has been collaborating with the Museum of the Rockies to help the museum evaluate the “Explore Yellowstone” Children’s Discovery Center. The Yellowstone exhibit opened in the summer of 2010 and is geared toward children up to age eight. It is based on the science of Yellowstone National Park and provides a variety of hands-on activities—fishing, camping, and cooking meals in the Old Faithful Inn—along with watching geysers and viewing wildlife.

Kelting-Gibson, who teaches educational assessment classes, became involved when Angie Weikert, early and elementary education director for the museum, contacted her to seek help in evaluating the exhibit’s activities.

“It was a great opportunity for education students to do an authentic field experience,” said Kelting-Gibson of the 110 students who have participated in the research.

Weikert, Kelting-Gibson, and Kim Karsted, After School Partnership director and education adjunct instructor, wrote questions for a survey that assessment students used to interview five to eight-year-old participants (with parent permission). Students were trying to find a correlation between time spent in each of the eight “discovery zones” within the exhibit and the children’s retention of content knowledge. Students noticed that children wanted to play and if they are to learn, they need to be guided. Children also learn best through interactive play and not by reading exhibit panels.

The fall 2011 assessment classes studied the findings and suggested ways to make the exhibit more educational. The spring 2012 classes are compiling the data and research and helping Kelting-Gibson write a report for the museum, which could lead to grant funding to improve the museum experience for children.

Kelting-Gibson, Weikert, and Karsted have submitted an article for publication about the project, findings, and recommendations.



HERBECK APPOINTED TO NCTE COMMITTEE

Associate professor of education, Joyce Herbeck, was recently appointed to the Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction in Children’s Literature committee to serve a three-year term. The committee, which is part of the 40,000 member National Council of Teachers of English, selects the honor books and final recipient of the annual Orbis Pictus Award and also plans a session for the national conference featuring the award winning author. Additionally, the committee promotes the use of nonfiction children’s books in the classroom.

NEWS FROM EXTENSION

In the fall, Lynn Paul, food and nutrition specialist in HHD, taught a 12-week session for MSU employees for Strong Women Healthy Hearts. The program teaches nutrition information and how to improve and sustain healthy behaviors. Paul was assisted by five dietetic interns doing rotations for their Montana Dietetic Internship.

Sandy Bailey, family and human development specialist and professor in HHD, has published a new MontGuide called "Managing Anger for Better Health and Relationships." To read the guide, click on <http://msuextension.org/publications/HomeHealthandFamily/MT201109HR.pdf>

Lynn Paul (L) and Kilani Morris, a dietetic intern, teach a lesson for Strong Women Healthy Hearts.



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**EDUCATION
STUDENT
NAMED
TO ALL-
ACADEMIC
TEAM**

Elementary education major Rachel Semansky has earned Capital One Academic All-American Second-Team honors, the nation's highest academic honor for student-athletes. From Highwood, Mont., Semansky is on the Bobcat women's basketball team and has a GPA of 3.95. She was recognized with 15 other women student-athletes from NCAA Division I for her academic and athletic excellence. Earlier this month, Semansky was named to the first team Academic All-District VII Women's Basketball squad and was the only player in the Big Sky Conference to receive this honor.