COMMUNITY AND GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT FUNDS
Nursing Domestic and International Outreach

SHAPING THE FUTURE
THE WORLD NEEDS NOW.

WHAT IT TAKES
The Campaign for MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
IMPROVING HEALTH CARE FOR MONTANA AND BEYOND.

Nursing’s focus on addressing core human health needs makes it one of the most challenging and in-demand professions in our nation. When student-nurses are immersed in reservation communities, across rural Montana and in developing nations around the world, they improve health and gain practical experience and knowledge of patient needs across different cultures.

WHAT IT TAKES TO INTEGRATE ACADEMICS AND SERVICE.

MSU nursing students travel domestically and internationally to work with and learn from underserved rural populations. They provide primary care and education in Montana on the Fort Peck Reservation and as far away as the Amazon Basin and northern Mongolia. These experiences introduce student-nurses to health concerns rarely addressed in large teaching hospitals and benefit individuals and families without routine access to health care.
A COMMITMENT TO PARTNERSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT.

MSU’s College of Nursing builds relationships with the Blackfeet and Fort Belknap Indian Reservations where students participate in service-learning projects. On the Fort Peck Indian Reservation students complete up to 60 of their required pediatric clinical hours.

Through collaboration with MSU’s Office of International Programs, nursing students join students from other disciplines studying abroad in Mongolia, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador and Kenya. Together these students learn to appreciate different traditions, view problems from diverse perspectives, and approach solutions cooperatively.

These cross-cultural experiences give MSU’s nursing students a competitive advantage when establishing their careers or when applying to graduate school. More than that, these experiences give students the chance to see firsthand how they can improve the lives of individuals and families.

Privately funded donations in support of the Nursing Domestic and International Programs will help MSU and the College of Nursing to:

- Increase the number of students and faculty involved in outreach activities for underserved populations.
- Grow the nursing outreach program on Montana Indian Reservations from 32 to 80 students participating annually.
- Afford 30 more nursing students each year the opportunity to travel abroad and practice their skills in rural and underserved communities internationally.
- Ensure that all students have a curricular experience that integrates learning, discovery and engagement.

$4,850 a student’s average cost for a 3-week international outreach trip

210 AVERAGE NUMBER OF ANNUAL NURSING GRADUATES

800 CHILDREN WERE PROVIDED PRIMARY CARE SERVICES IN THE FALL 2014 ON THE FORT PECK RESERVATION

59 students who provided primary care and education in underserved communities last year

PUTTING KNOWLEDGE TO WORK.

As Montana’s land-grant university and home of the only state supported baccalaureate entry nursing program, MSU has the unique responsibility of sharing health care knowledge and skills through professional nursing practice. We inspire students to serve as leaders in nursing by generating, translating and disseminating knowledge through research and outreach.

With the right mix of experiences and capabilities, Montana State University graduates can establish themselves in communities where they can have the greatest impact.
Nursing senior Candice Lindh never imagined she would help launch a new health care initiative on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation. Yet with the encouragement of her professors, Candice found herself on the front line, focusing on pediatric health promotion and disease prevention.

Working with a Bozeman-based dentist, Candice played a key role in addressing the backlog of pediatric dental cases on the reservation, helping to set up mobile dental units in local schools.

Recognizing that communication was key to the effort’s success, Candice worked with the tribal community to identify a local person who could communicate the details of the care being administered to children and parents in their own language. Establishing this rapport helped build a trusting relationship between those providing care and the community.

"It was so important to get out of the classroom and into the real-world setting, to actually work alongside those seeking care."

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Jessie Hardin knew from a young age that she wanted to be a nurse. What the Great Falls, Mont., native didn’t know was that her aspirations would take her to the remote Bulgan province of Mongolia.

Jessie traveled to Mongolia with two other nursing students and professor Michele Sare in summer 2014, part of a joint effort between MSU’s BioRegions Program and the WWAMI Medical program, to engage in three weeks of intensive service learning.

They operated a field clinic providing health screenings, first aid, and care for home-bound patients in the community. They also delivered in-service trainings and exchanged knowledge with the Mongolian nurses and health care providers.

“The experience really brought home for me subjects covered in our textbooks about global health, health disparities among populations and rural nursing ideals," Jessie said.

Her experience also demonstrated the importance of overcoming language and cultural barriers in communicating with patients. “We learned a lot about using non-verbal communication through eye contact, facial expression and touch,” Jessie said.

Learn more about how to write your own page of Montana State University history.