JOINING WITH COMMUNITIES
SHARING KNOWLEDGE

WHAT IT TAKES
The Campaign for
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
PARTNERING WITH RURAL SCHOOLS TO CREATE SMARTER, HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES.

Student teaching is the culmination of an MSU student’s preparation to join the teaching profession. By placing student teachers in remote and rural schools, MSU provides graduating seniors with vital field-based experiences while offering community schools much needed classroom assistance.

FULFILLING OUR MISSION.

MSU graduates the largest number of licensed K–12 teachers in the state. This initiative will help the College of Education, Health and Human Development to establish relationships with and place more student teachers in small and rural school districts. Deploying MSU’s highly trained teachers throughout the state advances K–12 education and fulfills an important part of our land-grant commitment to serve the people of Montana.

CURTAILING STUDENT DEBT AND ADVANCING K-12 EDUCATION IN MONTANA’S RURAL AND REMOTE SCHOOLS

$875,000 IN PRIVATE SUPPORT WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE.
Privately funded support for student teacher scholarships will enable MSU to:

- Increase the percentage of financial need met for students through scholarships to 80%.
- Broaden access to higher education for a larger and more diverse population.
- Raise the percentage of graduates employed full-time in their field or positions of their choosing to 70%.
- Expand the number of students, faculty and staff involved in service, outreach and engagement activities, with particular attention to underserved areas.

UNDERSTANDING THE NEED.

At Montana State University, we know that the average student loan debt of our graduates is over $26,000. We are committed to helping students keep their college education debt to a minimum. Now is the time to offer essential financial support to students who are devoted to teaching careers. Scholarships offered during student teaching will create tangible benefits for MSU students at a critical time in their academic careers.

These scholarships allow MSU to place student teachers in rural and isolated school districts, strengthen the presence of MSU in those communities and provide potential new teachers for rural communities who have developed a rich understanding of the school-community connection.

Rural schools often face challenges in recruiting and retaining new teachers. The 14-week student teacher assignments give these schools an opportunity to establish relationships with and attract highly qualified applicants for future job vacancies.

SUPPORTING A VOCATION.

Every day, teachers mold the future by helping students develop skills they need to reach their potential and lead productive lives in the face of global world challenges. Teaching is a vocation that fosters creativity, develops character and provides students with lenses with which to view the world. Student teaching for prospective elementary, secondary and K–12 teachers is a critical juncture in their preparation for this dynamic and vital profession. Scholarships for student teachers support a vocation that inspires life-long learning.
CHATEAU CHRISTENSEN

Chateau Christensen grew up in Hinsdale, Montana, population 217. The nine students in her graduating class were the same nine that entered Kindergarten with her.

That intimate knowledge of rural living drives her to pursue a career in a small town school. The Student Teacher Scholarship makes that possible.

“The scholarship enabled me to stay in Whitehall student teaching and not have to worry about losing my apartment in Bozeman,” Christensen said. Scholarships like this offer a small stipend to help students offset moving and living expenses. These resources support MSU’s partnership with rural schools and its capacity to bring seniors to far-flung parts of the state for 14-week assignments.

The grant also allows Christensen to fully experience working in the small town community, where she was placed in the only fifth grade classroom.

Christensen not only reaps the benefits of a small classroom, and a tight-knit community but she also experienced the fellowship within the school.

“Student teaching showed me to be adaptable and to not come into a classroom with a predetermined style or plan. I’ve been given an opportunity to be an educator. All the hard work I’ve done to get this far has paid off.”

When her first math lessons didn’t go as planned Christensen sat down with her cooperating teacher as well as other teachers who helped her revamp the lessons, adjusting them for the students’ abilities.

The low student to teacher ratio in many small town schools helps to foster closer ties and a rich learning experience.

Student teaching in a rural setting reinforced Christensen’s goal to teach in a small school. “That’s where my plans will lead me,” she said. “This experience increased my desire to stay in a rural community. It’s such an open and inviting environment. There’s nothing else like it.”

Why it matters.
STORIES OF STUDENT SUCCESS

Chateau Christensen grew up in Hinsdale, Montana, population 217. The nine students in her graduating class were the same nine that entered Kindergarten with her.

That intimate knowledge of rural living drives her to pursue a career in a small town school. The Student Teacher Scholarship makes that possible.

“The scholarship enabled me to stay in Whitehall student teaching and not have to worry about losing my apartment in Bozeman,” Christensen said. Scholarships like this offer a small stipend to help students offset moving and living expenses. These resources support MSU’s partnership with rural schools and its capacity to bring seniors to far-flung parts of the state for 14-week assignments.

The grant also allows Christensen to fully experience working in the small town community, where she was placed in the only fifth grade classroom.

Christensen not only reaps the benefits of a small classroom, and a tight-knit community but she also experienced the fellowship within the school.

“Student teaching showed me to be adaptable and to not come into a classroom with a predetermined style or plan. I’ve been given an opportunity to be an educator. All the hard work I’ve done to get this far has paid off.”

When her first math lessons didn’t go as planned Christensen sat down with her cooperating teacher as well as other teachers who helped her revamp the lessons, adjusting them for the students’ abilities.

The low student to teacher ratio in many small town schools helps to foster closer ties and a rich learning experience.

Student teaching in a rural setting reinforced Christensen’s goal to teach in a small school. “That’s where my plans will lead me,” she said. “This experience increased my desire to stay in a rural community. It’s such an open and inviting environment. There’s nothing else like it.”