LEARNERS AND LEADERS
Advancing Healthcare in Montana

CREATING SMARTER AND HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES.

WHAT IT TAKES
The Campaign for MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
Healthcare is one of our nation’s most dynamic and rapidly growing industries. It is also where the nation faces one of the greatest shortages of trained professionals, especially in rural areas like many parts of Montana. Montana State University is doing what it takes to make sure today’s medical and nursing students and programs are prepared to address that need. We’re also working to ensure that Montanans who want to pursue careers in medicine, nursing and related fields—particularly those eager to serve our rural areas—have the skills and opportunities to do so.

**$6 MILLION IN SUPPORT WILL ENSURE WE HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO SERVE OUR STATE.**
SCHOLARSHIPS: ENSURING ACCESS FOR ALL

As a land-grant institution serving the sons and daughters of Montana and beyond, we believe access to MSU should be based on talent, performance and potential, not on family finances. Sustained private support for scholarships will place our university’s outstanding academic, research and outreach programs within reach of every deserving student.

WWAMI SCHOLARSHIPS.

The Montana WWAMI program, implemented in partnership with the University of Washington’s School of Medicine, invites students to begin their medical education in their home state of Montana. To date, 92% of WWAMI graduates carry loans of $150,000 or more. This debt burden prevents many medical graduates from returning to practice in rural Montana where they are most desperately needed.

Contributions totaling $500,000 to endowed scholarships, particularly when doubled through the generosity of the Huckabay Family Challenge Match, will support students enrolled in WWAMI, making it easier for a new generation of doctors to return to their roots and serve Montana’s rural communities.

SINCE THE INCEPTION OF MONTANA WWAMI, 347 GRADUATES FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON SCHOOL OF MEDICINE HAVE CHOSEN TO PRACTICE IN MONTANA.
HEALTH PROFESSIONS AND PRE-MED SCHOLARSHIPS.

Nearly 100 Montana State University undergraduates apply to attend medical school each year, and our graduates are accepted at a rate 20% higher than the national average. Majoring in cell biology and neuroscience, chemistry, microbiology or health and human performance, these students pursue a pre-med education that helps prepare them to meet patients’ needs in an increasingly complex healthcare system.

Private funding of $500,000 for scholarships will help us recruit the best and brightest future healthcare providers into our programs.

These scholarships will also ensure that higher education is available to all deserving students, minimizing the heavy debt burden so common for those pursuing careers in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, optometry, physical therapy and occupational therapy.

NURSING SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS.

By 2025, our nation is projected to face a shortage of nearly 500,000 nurses. Montana State University’s College of Nursing has what it takes to address the looming shortage in Montana.

$1.5 million in private funding for undergraduate scholarships and graduate fellowships will help us to attract and support the next generation of Montana’s nurses.

Scholarships for students pursuing MSU’s Accelerated Bachelor of Nursing degree program, designed to graduate up to 32 nursing professionals each year, will help people who already hold degrees to prepare for nursing careers through a compressed 15-month academic and clinical course of study. Scholarship support will help students meet their commitment to this demanding, time intensive program, freeing them to focus on their studies.

Fellowships for master’s nursing students will help us develop more of tomorrow’s nursing leaders. Our master’s candidates are immersed in a challenging curriculum that prepares them with advanced leadership skills to be applied across a wide range of health care settings. Courses focus on healthcare delivery system design, advanced health assessment, law and policy, fiscal management and nursing informatics. Students also participate in a clinical leadership practicum.
ENDOWED NURSING CHAIR.

Recruiting and inspiring great Nursing faculty.

Contributions to establish a $2 million endowment fund for the College of Nursing Chair will advance MSU’s efforts to enhance healthcare in Montana and beyond. With four campuses across the state, the College of Nursing offers students an unparalleled nursing education with opportunities for research and to work as healthcare practitioners through service-learning projects in rural and underserved communities. 

The permanent financial resources afforded by an endowment will enable the recruitment of a preeminent teacher-scholar, will raise the visibility of MSU’s nursing programs, and ultimately will make a significant impact on the health and well-being of Montanans.

The nursing program at MSU has a critical role to play in reversing the significant nursing shortage in Montana and across the nation, offering students strong career prospects in a growing industry. With this Chair in place, MSU will be able to further enhance programming, including our Doctorate of Nursing Practice curriculum, to provide students with experiences that set them apart from their peers in the profession.

OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS.

Educating our students, supporting our communities

Endowed contributions of $1 million to the Nursing Student Domestic and International Outreach Program will enable the College of Nursing to provide students with intensive service learning opportunities. At the same time, this growing program enables undergraduate students and their faculty mentors to provide direct and essential health-care services to communities in need in rural Montana and beyond.

This program will allow up to 80 nursing students each year (up from just 32 in 2013) to provide critical healthcare education and clinical support on Indian Reservations and in other parts of rural Montana. 50 more students will be afforded the opportunity to do the same in developing nations around the world.

Students work with individuals and families in these communities, providing primary care services and delivering immunizations to children at schools and remote clinics. In creating this unique opportunity for students, many who have never traveled far from where they were raised, we help them gain practical experience in places that expand their knowledge of patient needs across different cultures. These experiences also introduce students to health concerns rarely addressed in large teaching hospitals, better preparing them to serve the needs of rural Montanans and others who do not have routine access to health care.
FACULTY RESEARCH AND LEADERSHIP GRANTS.

The College of Nursing aims to support twelve current faculty members who are pursuing their doctoral degrees. Montana State University’s new Doctor of Nursing Practice program is helping to prepare more nurses as faculty who are vital in the effort to educate more nurses and forestall projected nursing shortages. Offering financial support to these dedicated faculty members as they develop as leaders, teachers, investigators and clinicians will strengthen our university and the communities we serve.

Faculty research and leadership grants represent significant investments in the potential of our leading teachers and researchers as they contribute their expertise to the student experience, add to our intellectual capital and positively impact communities across the state and around the world.

DIETETIC INTERNSHIPS.

The Montana Dietetic Internship provides talented Montana State University students with hands-on experiences and at the same time introduces new and expanded dietetic services to communities in Montana. The intensive 41 week program has helped us keep talented students focused on healthcare in our state, and has grown to include an increasing number of men and Native Americans.

Private support totaling $175,000 over the next five years will defray the internship’s $15,000 cost, increasing participation in this program from 18 students today to nearly 30 once this initiative is fully funded.
CANDICE LINDH

Nursing senior Candice Lindh never imagined she would help launch a new healthcare 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 provided to children and parents in their own language. Establishing this rapport helped build a trusting relationship between the health care providers and the community.

After her experience, Candice has re-assessed her career path, thinking now of becoming a public health nurse. “I thought I had a laid-out trajectory,” Candice said. “Now I am inspired by how I can create effective change at the community level.”

SHALINA MIRZA

Shalina Mirza grew up in Belgrade, Montana. The first member of her family to attend college, she had doubts about the affordability of higher education and was unclear about the financial support that might be available to her. Scholarships and work study opportunities, though, provided her with the resources and the confidence she needed to pursue an advanced degree and a career in healthcare.

After earning her bachelor’s in exercise science in 2008 and acting upon guidance from MSU health professions advisors, Shalina worked for two years with the Montana Area Health Education Center where she became inspired to attend medical school and applied to the WWAMI program.

Fast forward to 2014: Today, Shalina is a resident physician in Primary Care & Internal Medicine at the University of Washington, where she graduated among the top in her class. Shalina’s academic successes won her $60,000 in medical school scholarships, for which she is very grateful. Even with this vital support, her student debt remains high, nearing the $175,000 common among graduating medical students today.

Her student loan debt doesn’t diminish Shalina’s passion for practicing medicine and making a difference in her world. She recently initiated a community service project in Butte that encourages more Montana students to pursue higher education and careers in healthcare.

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