

The Main Street Montana Project continues to be a driving force in an unprecedented partnership between the private sector and state government. Through the Project, the State of Montana has cut red tape, increased opportunities for Montana businesses, put more Montanans to work through job training and apprenticeship programs, increased the promotion of Made-in-Montana products and businesses, and invested in research for the benefit of Montana residents, businesses and industries.

Thirteen Key Industry Networks (KIN) with over 250 business leaders have had over 80 full group and subgroup sessions and provided over 150 recommendations to Governor Bullock.

Pillar 1: Train and Educate Tomorrow's Workforce Today

- Working with MSU Great Falls College on a ground-breaking model for integrating new apprenticeship programs into their Construction Technology Program in partnership with **Dick Anderson Construction**.
- Working with **Blue Cross Blue Shield** on new apprenticeship integration programs in medical claims and data analytics.
- Working with UM Helena College on new work based learning co-op model (meeting the requirements of a registered apprenticeship) for Computer Aided Manufacturing with **Boeing & Pioneer Aerostructures**.
- Collaborating with Miles Community College on a new model for integrating apprenticeships into the Construction Technology program with involvement from **Jackson Contractor Group** & the **Montana Contractor's Association**.
- Currently there are over **1,400** registered apprentices working in MT in over **60** occupational fields through the Montana Registered Apprenticeship program with over **700** business sponsors across the state.
- Flathead Valley Community College (FVCC) has developed a new competency based apprenticeship program that fully integrates curriculum from the Electrical Technology Program. This approved MT Registered Apprenticeship model satisfies all instruction requirements with the participant simultaneously earning the Certificate of Technical Studies (CTS) with a seamless option to continue toward completion of the CAS, AAS or other college credential.
- Through the Main Street Montana Project, the second workforce symposium was held in Butte for private and public sector partners to learn more about how work-based learning training models can strengthen Montana's workforce.
- The Montana Department of Labor & Industry launched the first IT apprenticeship program.
- Industry Driven Workforce Development Partnerships Director Kirk Lacy has been hired as the bridge between the Montana University System and the Department of Labor & Industry workforce efforts - first position of its kind in the country.
- **4,074** students from **107** different high schools were dual-enrolled and completed over **14,000** credits hours. The number of students was an increase of over **800** students from the previous year.

Pillar 2: Create a Climate that Attracts, Retains, and Grows Businesses

- A recurring theme heard throughout the Main Street Montana Project was the need for government at all levels to be more responsive to the needs of businesses by streamlining duplicative, outdated and ineffectual rules and regulations. To date, **460** agency and board rules have been repealed and **1452** have been revised to make state government more efficient and effective.
- State-chartered banks no longer pay regulatory assessment saving the industry approximately **\$1.4 million**. Mortgage license renewal fees were reduced by **50%** for a savings of approximately **\$700,000** to the mortgage industry.
- Montana has improved from the state with the highest Workers' Compensation premium rates in 2010 to 11th highest in 2014 (latest figures available).
- Numerous initiatives completed to recruit, hire and promote with a customer service focus including adding customer service into job hiring and rating processes at Department of Administration.
- Based on recommendations from the Small Business KIN, the Governor's Office of Economic Development

(GOED) released the Business Navigator, an on-line tool for entrepreneurs and small business owners. The Navigator guides prospective business owners and entrepreneurs through a streamlined process for identifying the necessary registrations, licenses, permits, and resources needed to start a business.

- State procurement processes were overhauled to expedite and streamline the client's and general public's experience. Montana ranks in the top ten nationally in procurement (Governing Magazine, February 2016). The State also ranked **5th** overall in the nation for procurement workforce, training and certification.
- The Montana Department of Administration completed a project offering e-government services to local governments which allows them to submit financial reports electronically, increasing transparency and cutting submission times and needless red tape.

Pillar 3: Build Upon Montana's Economic Foundation

- The Montana Department of Commerce completed an interactive Energy & Infrastructure Map to assist private industry in siting decisions. <http://ceic.mt.gov/Maps/EnergyApp/index.html>
- The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and an Energy KIN subcommittee developed revisions to the MT Facility Siting Act (MFSA) for the 2017 session to make it more workable for industry and the Department.
- MT State University-Bozeman received a grant for a 3 year beef to school project which includes a case study of 5 different school/producer relationships, supply chain analysis, education/outreach materials creation, and training.
- In June 2016, the Governor released his energy plan for Montana entitled *Blue Print for Montana's Energy Future*, which stems from KIN recommendations and numerous meetings with Montanans gathering input and perspective from all sectors of the energy industry.

Pillar 4: Market Montana

- The Main Street Montana Project held the Market Symposium in Missoula to build the marketing tools and partnerships between the private and public sector.
- The Montana Department of Commerce reorganized creating the Tourism and Business Development division to allow for synergy and collaboration in all Montana promotional efforts.
- The Montana Department of Commerce, with Federal State Trade & Export Promotion Program funding, hosted **7** Montana Pavilions at international trade shows, promoting **34** Montana companies' products and services and provided **103** marketing grants to Montana companies for exhibiting at international trade shows, translating marketing materials, and participating in business matchmaking activities.

Pillar 5: Emerging Industries and Encourage Innovation

- The Health & Wellness KIN recommendation to expand access to healthcare was successful – providing access to health insurance for up to 70,000 additional Montanans.
- The Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) launched its "Choose Montana Campaign" and "Come Home Campaign" to encourage businesses to locate in Montana and former residents to return. GOED launched a renovated innovatemontana.com website, featuring entrepreneurial resources and successful Montana entrepreneurs. The MSMP Innovate Symposium had over 450 attendees further leveraging the campaign.
- MSU's ***Jake Jabs Center for Business and Entrepreneurship*** and the ***Blackstone LaunchPad (BLP)*** are developing entrepreneurial skills in students with the goal of enabling students to create future job opportunities in Montana.
- Governor Bullock led successful efforts to secure \$15 million in additional funds for research to create new commercial products and patented technologies.
- With mining industry support Montana Tech has developed the ***Underground Mine Education Facility*** on campus--one of the few underground facilities for mine education and research located on a college campus. CAMP has attracted \$2 million in new federal money and is supporting a broader range of industrial needs.