

MONTANA CAREER CLUSTERS

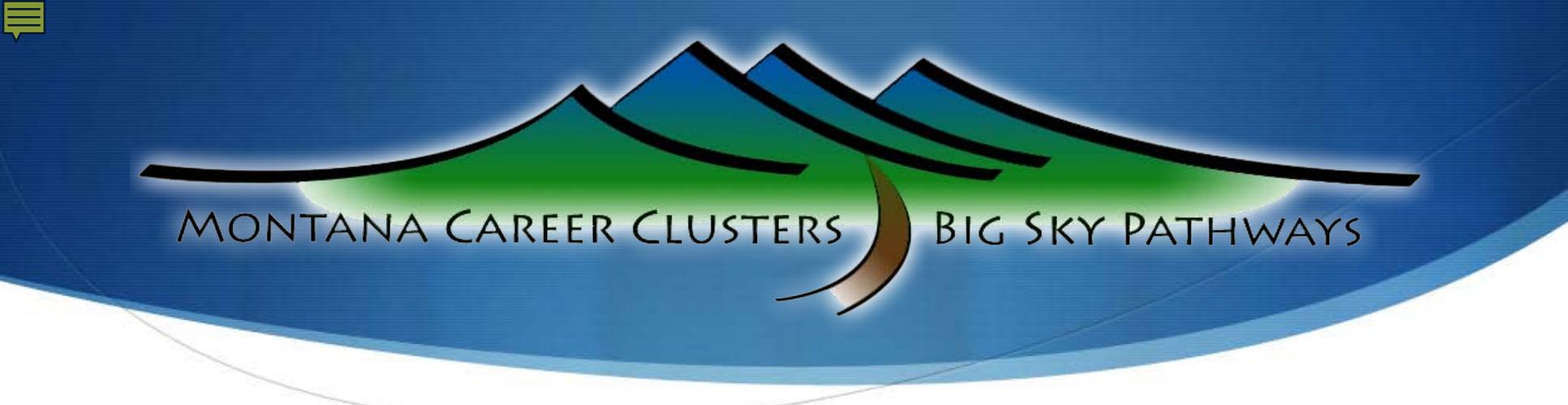
BIG SKY PATHWAYS

# BIG SKY PATHWAYS

Presented by:

Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education and  
The Office of Public Instruction





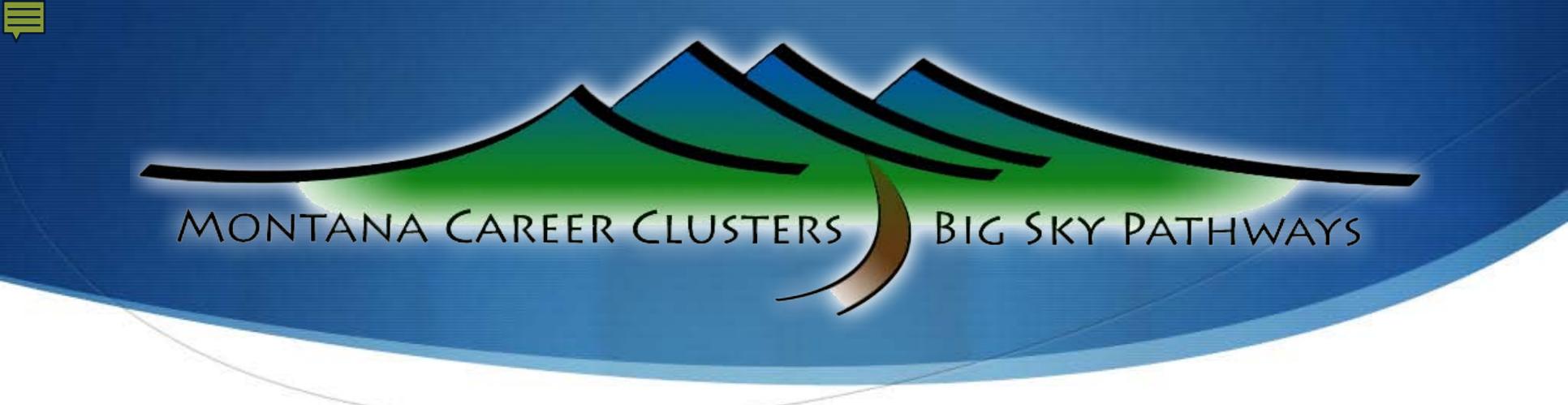
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BIG SKY PATHWAYS

## What are they?

The Montana Big Sky Pathways are an education and workforce delivery model

- ◆ supporting different learning styles,
- ◆ equally valuing different interests and talents,
- ◆ adapting and responding to technology and workplace needs, and
- ◆ preparing all students for career success through multiple pathways.



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BIG SKY PATHWAYS

## Why are they important?

- ◆ Provides a framework for seamless education
- ◆ Promotes connection between workforce and economic development
- ◆ Focuses on high-skill, high-demand careers
- ◆ Uses Programs of Study to assure attainment of technical skill proficiency, degree and/or credential



# OUR CHALLENGES

- ◆ Today, 27% of young people drop out of high school (Montana @ 18%)
- ◆ Every year 1.2 million teenagers leave school for the streets
- ◆ Math remediation rate is 50% for Montana public high school graduates entering 2-YEAR COLLEGES in the U-system
- ◆ 50% of Developmental Education students never complete a degree/certificate or credential



# OPPORTUNITIES

- ◆ Career Clusters and Pathways – 20 years in the making
- ◆ Student centered and industry driven
- ◆ Increase cooperation between Secondary and Postsecondary
- ◆ Enhance communication and advising
- ◆ Improve graduation rates
- ◆ Reduce remediation rates



# STATUS REPORT

- ◆ Montana prioritized Perkins funds to help meet the 10 Components of the Program of Study Design Framework
- ◆ US Dept. of Ed. developed the 10 Components of the Program of Study Design Framework
- ◆ The future of Perkins will revolve around Programs of Study



# TEN COMPONENTS

- ◆ Legislation and Policies
- ◆ Partnerships
- ◆ Professional Development
- ◆ Accountability and Evaluation Systems
- ◆ College and Career Readiness Standards
- ◆ Course Sequences
- ◆ Credit Transfer Agreements
- ◆ Guidance Counseling and Academic Advisement
- ◆ Teaching and Learning Strategies
- ◆ Technical Skills Assessments



# PHASE 1 - 2010

- ◆ Perkins-funded colleges were asked to choose pathways they would like to offer to all high schools in Montana
- ◆ High schools then selected programs they would like to develop a pathway
- ◆ Meetings were held between high school and college faculty (2010-2011)
- ◆ This effort was designed to reach every school and college to develop at least the mandatory one Pathway



# PHASE 2 - 2011

- ◆ Identify where the Career Clusters Knowledge & Skills statements are being taught
- ◆ What level are they being taught
- ◆ Eliminate unnecessary duplication
- ◆ Eliminate the need for remediation
- ◆ Prepare a GAP Analysis



# PROGRESS

- ◆ The 2010-2011 statewide meetings resulted in:
  - ◆ 171 of 172 high schools completing at least 1 Big Sky Pathway
  - ◆ 12 colleges offering 87 program options in 20 Career Pathways
  - ◆ for over 480 pathway partnerships
  - ◆ 650 teachers, counselor and faculty participants



# BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

- ◆ Earlier more informed start toward a career goal
- ◆ More efficient cost effective pathway to their career goal while at the same time increasing skills business desire – no duplication or remediation
- ◆ View career goals as a stackable – looking at opportunities within each education level
- ◆ Involving everyone in the BSP plan – parents, friends, teachers, counselors, local businesses



# BENEFITS TO BUSINESS

- ◆ Potential employees are more informed and better prepared because they've done the homework and committed to the outcome
- ◆ Nationally, education is asking business to take the lead in identifying what is needed for top notch employees
- ◆ Turnover because of lack of interest should decrease
- ◆ Potential for succession planning and employee advancement can be planned and executed



# GETTING INVOLVED

- ◆ Invite educators to spend time with employees in high demand jobs – this will help us to better identify needs
- ◆ Improve the productivity and outcomes of local high school and college advisory programs
- ◆ Offer work experience, job shadowing or internship opportunities to students to give a more realistic view of their potential career
- ◆ Collaborate with colleges and high schools to share equipment, facilities, etc.



# BIG SKY PATHWAYS FUTURE

- ◆ Align pathway classes with Career Clusters
- ◆ Utilize industry developed Knowledge and Skills
- ◆ Identify Knowledge and Skills duplicated or not covered
- ◆ Integrate Math into CTE pathways
- ◆ Develop Industry Partners
- ◆ Integrate writing into the CTE pathways
- ◆ Big Sky Pathways integrated into Career Guidance
- ◆ National focus on Programs of Study



# CONTACT INFORMATION

- ◆ The [Big Sky Pathways Website](#) will give contact information for:
  - ◆ Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education Staff
  - ◆ Office of Public Instruction Staff
  - ◆ College Big Sky Pathway Coordinators & Pathway Faculty
- ◆ Questions? Submit all questions in writing to [bsp@montana.edu](mailto:bsp@montana.edu). Questions & answers will be posted on the FAQ page. No names will be used.



# QUESTIONS

