

May 6, 2010

TO: SWIB Executive Board
FROM: Governor's Office
RE: Governor's Discretionary Resources

Program Update

One year ago, Governor's discretionary funds were secured to expand a state initiative to promote math and science as a key to preparing a workforce capable of competing in a global economy. Key accomplishments and activities to date include:

- Redesigning a website that informs the public on opportunities and resources across the state that promote education and careers in math and science.
- Participation in a steering committee leveraging post secondary resources to increase the quantity, quality, and diversity of mathematics and science teachers and expanding outreach to teachers organizations.
- Montana's participation in a consortium of states and federal grant program to adopt internationally benchmarked college and career ready standards to better align K-12 and higher education and apprenticeship programs.
- Growing a program of Roadside Geology Markers that provide innovative teaching opportunities for early childhood and K-12 classrooms. The signs are tied to career pathways by connecting volunteer scientists to future jobs in the students' communities.
- Creating a new set of math and science trading cards focused on the energy sector to spark an early interest in math and science leading to emerging job fields in Montana.
- Award recognition of a community organization, a private research organization, and an individual who have partnered with Montana's school systems to enhance math and science education tied to high-demand fields.
- Numerous statewide outreach events ranging from science fairs to water monitoring to inspire students to study math and science as a pathway to careers.

Budget

Funding from the Governor's Set-aside for personnel and related expenses for the Initiative. Specifically:

\$41,592 Wages
\$12,478 Benefits
\$17,930 Travel & Outreach

\$72,000 Total

\$13,000 Estimated unspent funds to carryover to FY 11
\$59,000 Additional request for following year

\$72,000 Total