



Campus Compact

Montana

Eight Montana college students have been named as 2020 Newman Civic Fellows. They will participate as part of a 290 student national cohort of Newman Civic Fellows. The 2020 cohort—the largest group of Newman Civic Fellows to date—comprises students from 39 states, Washington, D.C., Greece, Lebanon, and Mexico. The fellowship honors the late Frank Newman, one of Campus Compact’s founders, who was a tireless advocate for civic engagement in higher education. Following are the Montana Fellows announced for 2020:

GRACELYN ABEL | Flathead Valley Community College
A.S. - Sustainable Food and Bioenergy Systems: Class of 2020

Flathead Valley Community College student Gracelyn Abel will graduate with an A.S. in Sustainable Food and Bioenergy Systems in 2020 and transfer to Montana State University to pursue a bachelor's degree. Gracelyn was moved to get a degree in agriculture when she realized there was a systemic disconnection between people and the sources of their food. Her efforts to bridge this gap include working with Feed the Flathead to get fresh produce on the plates of community members. She has also worked to educate the public about local pollinators, seed germination and seed viability, and has held demonstrations to teach children how to bake bread from locally grown whole grains. Currently, Gracelyn is volunteering in a whole-foods cooking class at FVCC so she can contribute to educating her peers on food preparation and nutrition. Through the diversity of her volunteer work and education, Gracelyn is well equipped to pursue her dreams of building up community food systems in the present and future. -- *Jane Karas, President, Flathead Valley Community College*

PERSONAL STATEMENT

On my educational journey, it became apparent to me that there is something inherently dysfunctional about the whole agricultural system. Farmers are growing more food than they ever have before, yet people are going hungry and our population is malnourished. How can obesity and starvation exist in the same socio-economic class? Poor diet and poor access to food have caused this paradox to spread across communities around the world. I feel called to find the answers to my own questions regarding these issues and to be a part of future solutions.

Changing the system overnight is a daunting and impossible task, so I’ve decided to start where I can and move forward from there. I believe that education is a primary pillar to the solutions of the future, thus the majority of my civic engagement has focused on community education. It is imperative to raise the next generation to be informed members of the community who hold a long-lasting connection with their food, understand where their food comes from, and support producers who prioritize sustainability, nutrition, and access to food. I hope that little by little, I can create lasting change in my community and beyond.

DANIELLE ANTELOPE | Danielle Antelope, Montana State University
Sustainable Food & Bioenergy Systems: Class of 2021

Danielle Antelope, a student at Montana State University (MSU), is a passionate student leader and advocate for indigenous food systems and food security at Montana State University, in our community and her home community of the Blackfeet Reservation. Through education and engaged dialogue facilitation, she promotes understanding of indigenous identity through food and cultural well-being. The skills and knowledge Danielle has developed through her work with food sustainability are an asset to the MSU campus. Her hope is to help tribes revitalize and preserve knowledge about her traditional food system while promoting healthy choices and overall nutrition. -- *Dr. Waded Cruzado, President, Montana State University*

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Starting higher education at Blackfeet Community College allowed me to build a foundation to grow from. I was able to take western classes at the same time learning Blackfeet culture. This experience allowed me to find my identity as an indigenous mother as well as my passion for community wellness and cultural sustainability. When I transferred to Montana State University, I was focused on making an impact within my short time here. Within my first semester, I noticed the lack of representation of the indigenous student population on campus. In spring 2019, I ran for student senate and won a senator position. This is a leadership position that allows me to be the voice for not only indigenous students but all students. In fall 2019, I secured funding to provide healthy snacks in the American Indian Student Center. Students have told me that this food has been beneficial to their wellbeing. I strive to make positive impact for those who come after me. Being a mother empowers me to think of future generations in everything that I do. I was raised to be the change that I want to see and that is how I will raise my son too.

BRAYDEN CROWLEY | Rocky Mountain College
Biology - Pre-Medicine: Class of 2021

Brayden Crowley, a third-year undergraduate student at Rocky Mountain College is a pre-med student majoring in Biology. Brayden has demonstrated a commitment to community engagement through volunteering and advocacy. He has served a 300-hour AmeriCorps term of service focusing on hunger and homelessness. Brayden is dedicated to creating positive sustainable change in his community.

For the past two years, he has been responsible for organizing World Kindness Day. This past year, he coordinated 40 volunteers to make over 1,600 sandwiches. Every month Brayden joins a group of students to serve lunch at the HUB, a shelter serving individuals experiencing homelessness. Brayden is also the president of the RockyMED group that promotes pre-health education, he is a volunteer EMT in a rural community, and is dedicated to advancing rural healthcare.

This past summer Brayden attended a Service Trip to Antigua, Guatemala with a group of students from Rocky Mountain College. During the service trip he gained valuable insight, a global perspective, and was able to work with malnourished children and build a house.

-- *Dr. Robert Wilmouth, President, Rocky Mountain College*

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Volunteering with underserved communities often require you to step outside of your comfort zone, it is not a simple task, and often require courage and commitment. My interest for volunteering began with Special Olympics Montana. I continue to volunteer with Special Olympics Montana but have shifted my focus to food insecurity and serving rural communities.

On campus, I serve in a leadership role in the Office of Community Engagement where I coordinate and participate in events for food impoverished individuals. For the last two years, I have coordinated an event where over 3,300 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches were made by volunteers and donated to agencies in the Billings community. In my rural hometown, I volunteer as an EMT on the ambulance crew and pick up shifts in the emergency room. These experiences have helped me learn how to work with underserved, rural communities. I am inspired to pursue a career as a physician in a small town. I want to be an integral part of the community and to indulge in lifelong commitment to serving the underserved.

CHARMAINE ENGUM | Great Falls College Montana State University
Nursing: Class of 2022

Charmaine (Charlie) Engum is a second-year general studies student at Great Falls College MSU. She is president of the campus Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Vice President of the GFC MSU Associated Students, an American Indian Scholar, leads Service Saturdays, organizes campus blood drives, collaborates to provide Thanksgiving meals for low-income students, and volunteers for the campus food pantry weekly. She works closely with the Office of Student Engagement to help make our community more involved. She works in the Academic Success Center as a tutor for writing, chemistry and music. She recently received a Montana Student Volunteer award sponsored by GFC MSU and the Governor's Office of Community Service and has been accepted into the Montana NEW Leadership Program. She plans to pursue a nursing degree at Montana State University, after graduating this spring from GFC MSU.

-- Dr. Susan J. Wolff, CEO/Dean, Great Falls College Montana State University

PERSONAL STATEMENT

I grew up in a poverty ridden and a very dysfunctional family. I always felt stifled by them, when it came to my thoughts and feelings about everything. Growing up with a lack of confidence in myself kept me in a stagnant lifestyle. I didn't think I was ever good enough for the world around me. I eventually realized my vulnerabilities and weaknesses were in fact my biggest strengths. It was a type of resiliency I learned I needed to achieve balance, confidence and personal strength in my life. I became committed to helping others around me, to finding strength and guidance in their lives.

While being extremely involved in everything on campus, I experienced other students just like me, who were struggling from whatever challenges they faced. I mentored others to get involved, while organizing campus turkey drives, leading Service Saturdays, being the Associated Students' events coordinator and Vice President, working in the Office of Student Engagement with campus happenings, and managing blood drives. I believe every person has something to offer, no matter how they see themselves. It is all energy that can be used to boost the morale of our community one person at a time.

KATLYN GILLEN | Montana State University Billings
Human Services/Psychology: Class of 2022

Katlyn Gillen is a junior studying Human Services and Minor in Psychology at Montana State University Billings (MSUB). Her passion is to become a counselor with a specialization working with children and young people.

Katlyn has been actively involved with MSUB TRIO Student Support Services since fall 2017. During this time she has proven herself to be an inspiring role model in her position as a Peer Mentor. She currently works with a caseload of Bachelor's degree-seeking students who are first generation, low-income, or disabled - empowering them to succeed in life and in their academic careers.

Katlyn is a shining example of a first generation student who is excelling at her studies, with a 3.40 GPA, who is supporting other first generation students do just the same. In her spare time, Katlyn works tirelessly to champion her fellow students as President of the TRIO Advocates Club, involved in promoting a number of educational awareness and service development programs.

Katlyn is an amazing student who has taken the initiative to connect the campus to her community. She takes pride in her academic studies and continues to work closely with various departments both on and off campus to foster sustainable collaborative relationships.

-- Dr. Dan Edelman, Chancellor, Montana State University Billings

PERSONAL STATEMENT

I first became involved in addressing issues of mental health by volunteering with Big Brothers Big Sisters as a big sister, using one-on-one mentoring to give children emotional support, positive relationships, and guidance. I began to be involved as President and District President of FCCLA, Family Career and Community Leaders of America, where I focused on the importance of families spending time together to help benefit children's future. As years passed, I realized that I could do more for my community. I started speaking and volunteering at Out of the Darkness walks to help prevent suicide. I came to understand that there was a large population that suffer from more than just mental illness. I am currently President of TRIO Advocates and a Peer Mentor for TRIO Student Support Services helping MSU Billings college students that are low-income, first generation college student, or/and have a documented disability. I work every day to advocate for mental health and to help our community members to reach their full potential.

KORTNEY SIMS | University of Montana
Communicative Sciences and Disorders, Psychology: Class of 2021

Kortney Sims, a Junior at the University of Montana (UM), is an engaged scholar and active member of the campus community. During her time at UM, she has distinguished herself as a leader amongst her peers and an advocate for underrepresented populations of students, especially those living with communicative disorders and autism. She has worked tirelessly through her studies, extracurricular activities, and employment to address social inequities and promote a more inclusive campus community.

-- Seth Bodnar, President, University of Montana

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Coming from a small town, I learned the importance of engaged citizenship from my family. The transition to college was definitely a big adjustment, but my love for volunteering has grown the longer I am in Missoula. I was selected to be a Resident Assistant for the University, where I built a residence hall based on involvement and inclusivity. There is a shortage of knowledge surrounding neurodiversity in University Housing Systems. I'm currently working with another student to prepare training to provide better community options for neuro diverse students. My interest in helping the aging population lead me to the New Directions Wellness Center, a non-profit health promotion program, where I have volunteered my time helping people with chronic illness or disability with their workout or fitness needs. In the future, I look forward to working as a Speech-Language Pathologist. Communication is a right that everyone deserves, and I would love to help create an equal opportunity for everyone to have equal access to the services they need. I plan to spend time within my community to achieve this goal while also teaching future generations the importance of engaged citizenship.

TRISTAN STOCKTON | University of Montana Western
Physical Education & Health K-12: Class of 2021

Tristan Stockton is a junior majoring in Physical Education & Health K-12, with a minor in coaching. For the past three years he has been involved in Peers Advocating Toward Health (PATH) helping to inform Western's student body on healthy lifestyle choices. Whether he is presenting on behalf of PATH in classrooms or workshops, participating in tabling events for Domestic Violence Awareness Month, assisting with Condom Bingo sexual health awareness, or helping with trivia nights for Healthy Colleges Montana, Tristan is always enthusiastic about improving the well-being of his fellow students. As a member of the Bulldog cheer team, he is vocal supporter of Western's athletic teams, which requires approximately 10 hours of volunteer hours per week. After graduation, Tristan plans to use his degree to further his passion for helping young students by teaching health education in a rural Montana school where he feels he can have the most impact.

-- **Beth Weatherby**, *Chancellor, The University of Montana Western*

PERSONAL STATEMENT

My inspiration to raise tobacco, alcohol, and other drug prevention awareness mainly stems from my high school years in Business Professionals of America (BPA). The local chapter would take the time to decorate the school for Red Ribbon Week. The purpose of Red Ribbon Week was to provide the students facts about tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs that aren't always shown in ads. My involvement in this event was to educate students to a higher level of understanding about the risks involved with these products. Now that I am active in Peers Advocating Toward Health (PATH), I can help spread awareness and be able to provide useful tips that will help students in the future. Ways I've helped contribute to this are: assisting with condom bingo, giving presentations to freshmen about what our organization does, and presenting several other events that raise awareness in other areas of health. My goal is to promote healthy lifestyles to future generations to start a wave of positive change.

HILARY VANVLEET | Montana Technological University
Professional and Technical Communication: Class of 2021

Hilary VanVleet is a student at Montana Tech studying Professional and Technical Communication, concentration Public Relations. Hilary has a long history of engagement with her communities and academics. Since 2015, she has been involved with Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) as an attendant and volunteer facilitator. In 2017, Hilary won the Silver Presidential Service award for volunteering over 200 hours in one year. Since coming to Montana Tech, Hilary has been involved as a club leader in the Swing Dance club, which tries every week to provide a venue and music, along with lessons, to teach people in Butte how to dance. Hilary is involved in the university choir, the business guild, TRIO Student Support Services, and the Montana College Access Network (MCAN). Over the summer, she worked with Montana Tech Upward Bound to provide mentorship for first generation, low income students from Butte, Anaconda, and Helena high schools. In addition to her extracurricular activities and volunteer experience, Hilary is an academic achiever. She has been on the Dean's List (GPA>3.5) and on the Chancellor's List (GPA=4.0) for the past several semesters. Hilary hopes inspire others and give them the tools to be active members in their own communities.

-- **Dr. Les Cook**, *Chancellor, Montana Technological University*

PERSONAL STATEMENT

I started at Montana Tech in 2017 with intentions of becoming a civil engineer. I had my reservations, but I quickly secured an internship at a civil engineering firm my first summer. I had the opportunity to practice being a civil engineer but I truly enjoyed working with the clients. When I returned to school I realized that I could be a civil engineer but I did not have a passion for it. I changed my major to Professional Technical Communication, concentration in public relations my sophomore year. I got to create items that were designed with a purpose,

utilized my interpersonal skills, and was challenged to think critically about how we use communication (oral and visual) to connect with others. I began working at the Institute for Educational Opportunities. I was the lead photographer at events, created digital media for outreach, and assisted with design and writing support. This position introduced me to the Montana College Access Network (MCAN). MCAN provides low-income and first-generation students with the tools they need to succeed in higher education. My involvement and efforts with both these programs allow me to help students have access to support resources they need to succeed in college.