Montana’s Higher Education Consortium (HEC): An Innovative Statewide Collaboration
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What is the Montana HEC?

✧ Began in 2007
✧ Supported/funded by the MT Office of Public Instruction
✧ Originated as a shared space for special education faculty
✧ General education faculty were invited to join several years later
Challenges of Working Together across Vast Distances

✧ MT = 4th largest state in USA
✧ Only nine EPPs
✧ 5 universities, 2 private colleges, and 7 tribal colleges that feed into the EPPs
✧ HEC provides an opportunity for faculty across state to meet, share, and collaborate
Key Aspects of the HEC

✧ Vibrant and authentic community of practice
✧ Meets twice a year; each meeting focuses on a topic of interest to the EPPs
✧ CEEDAR technical assistance and IRIS trainings are key features of recent work
Key Aspects of the HEC, cont’d.

✧ State CSPD Coordinator is the key leader and liaison for the HEC
✧ Technical assistance is provided by the Center for Technical Assistance in Special Education (TAESE)
✧ The most recent meeting focused on using EBPs in a CAEP-standards environment