

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