



# ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024



# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

On behalf of the staff, faculty and students at Fort Peck Community College, we are pleased to produce this report as a snapshot of FPCC's activities, events and highlights for FY2024.

In April, 2024, I was very honored to be selected by the FPCC Board of Directors as the next President of FPCC. Born in Wolf Point and raised in Poplar, I recall the concept and beginnings of the college back in the 1970's, as the campus was just two blocks from the neighborhood I grew up in.

Returning home after graduating from the University of Montana in June, 1988 with my Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, I began working in the Fort Peck Tribal Planning Department. FPCC was 10 years old at the time and had developed and grown into a multi-building campus, offering many different degrees and certificates, and staffed by an excellent administration, faculty and staff.

I wanted to be a part of this educational growth and applied to be on the FPCC Board of Directors. I was selected for the vacancy and served for 10 years on the Board before becoming an employee at FPCC for the past 25 years, totaling 35 years of serving and advocating for the college so far! I look forward to, along with my Administrative Team, building upon and strengthening of what has been built, developed and evolved in the college's first 45 years as a higher education institution.

The college is at an interesting time right now in the higher education universe across the nation. While tribal colleges were initially developed to address the higher education needs on Indian Reservations that were remote, isolated and great distances from the nearest higher education opportunity, this barrier has almost disappeared with online and distance learning. While the college has made great strides in adapting its course offerings to an online alternative, there is still room for improvement, growth and innovations that will secure our place in competing for students.

The "FPCC Family" provides a well-rounded college experience offering a variety of student clubs and organizations, an abundant student activities calendar each month, many student assistance programs to ensure student success, and provide leadership and occupational opportunities in the nurturing and education of our future leaders and workforce.

I invite each and every one of you to come visit our campuses in Poplar and Wolf Point. FPCC is an open enrollment institution of higher education, and besides offering academic degrees and vocational certificates, the college provides an opportunity to learn, appreciate and understand the culture, language and history of the Assiniboiné and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation.

Go Buffalo Chasers!

*Craig Smith, President*  
*Fort Peck Community College*





## MISSION STATEMENT

FPCC serves the people of the Fort Peck Reservation and Northeast Montana by providing quality academic, vocational, and community based programs, empowering the next generation of workers, leaders and citizens while being entrusted with the preservation and promotion of Assiniboiné and Sioux Culture.

## VISION STATEMENT

Fully accredited Fort Peck Community College is a safe, healthy and welcoming leader for all to achieve academic, career and cultural goals.



# FPCC GRADUATE LIST - SPRING 2023

Tia Azure

Associate of Arts, Psychology

Associate of Arts, Chemical Addictions Studies

Associate of Arts, Social Work

\*Alexandria Beston

Certificate, Lay Advocate/Paralegal

Emerson Birdtail II

Associate of Applied Science, Automotive Technology

\*Jeb Boettger

Certificate, Digital Technology

\*Sarah Boettger

Associate of Science, Environmental Science

Chantelle Buckles

Certificate, Information Technology

Monica Campbell

Associate of Applied Science, Criminal Justice

\*Antoinette Chase—VALEDICTORIAN

Associate of Applied Science, Business Technology

Certificate, Accounting Technician

Certificate, Business Assistant

\*Tracie Coursey—SALUTATORIAN

Associate of Arts, Business Administration

Associate of Arts, General Studies

\*Anessa Day

Associate of Science, Pre-Health/Pre-Nursing

Associate of Science, Biomedical

Associate of Science, General Studies

Associate of Arts, General Studies

Elizabeth Deserly

Associate of Arts, Social Work

Jordis Ferguson

Certificate, Information Technology

\*Keyvin Four Bear

Associate of Arts, General Studies

\*Tomee Escarcega

Certificate, Information Technology

\*Keri Fox

Associate of Applied Science, Criminal Justice

Joetta Allrunner Fourstar

Associate of Arts, Tribal Gov't & Administration

\*Patrick Bad Bear

Certificate, Information Technology

\*Aimee Black

Associate of Arts, Social Work

Nicholas Blount

Certificate, Information Technology

\*Troy Brown

Certificate, Welding Technology

Wesley Brown

Certificate, Welding Technology

Donelle Buckles

Associate of Arts, Chemical Addictions Studies

An'Julie Cantrell

Associate of Arts, General Studies

\*Willow Coefield

Associate of Arts, Social Work

\*Lafon Copenhaver

Associate of Applied Science, Criminal Justice

Certificate, Lay Advocate/Paralegal

Evron Davis Jr.

Certificate, Welding Technology

Taylor Day

Associate of Applied Science, Criminal Justice

Certificate, Lay Advocate/Paralegal



# FPCC GRADUATE LIST - SPRING 2023

Shantell Fowler

Associate of Arts, Psychology

Callyn Gourneau Wagner

Associate of Arts, Elementary Education

Certificate, Lay Advocate/Paralegal

Hilary Gourneau

Associate of Arts, Early Childhood Education

David Grainger

Associate of Arts, General Studies

\*Mauri Gourneau Grandchamp

Associate of Arts, Chemical Addictions Studies

Associate of Arts, General Studies

\*Michelle Harada

Associate of Arts, Chemical Addictions Studies

Certificate, Business Assistant

\*Fanci Jackson

STUDENT OF THE YEAR

Associate of Arts, Psychology

Associate of Arts, General Studies

\*Yvette Kawasaki

Certificate, Accounting Technician

Certificate, Business Assistant

\*Melissa Kozmo

Associate of Arts, Elementary Education

\*Lindsay Leno

Associate of Arts, Early Childhood Education

LaFaye Lizotte

Associate of Applied Science, Criminal Justice

Certificate, Lay Advocate/Paralegal

Janet Lone Bear

Associate of Science, Pre-Health/Pre-Nursing

Darwin Longtree

Associate of Applied Science,

Information/Networking Technology

Dusti Marottek

Associate of Arts, Elementary Education

\*Malia McNabb

Associate of Arts, Native American Studies

Rhonda Michell-Lilley

Associate of Arts, Early Childhood Education

\*Kyrsten Miller

Associate of Arts, Chemical Addictions Studies

Associate of Arts, Social Work

Associate of Arts, Psychology

Charla Patton

Associate of Arts, Business Administration

Associate of Applied Science, Business Technology

Certificate, Accounting Technician

Certificate, Business Assistant

\*Kristin Petersen

Certificate, Information Technology

Associate of Applied Science,

Information/Networking Technology

Aimee Plummer

Associate of Arts, Chemical Addictions Studies

Associate of Applied Science, Criminal Justice

Certificate, Lay Advocate/Paralegal

Associate of Arts, General Studies

Glenna Red Eagle

Associate of Applied Science, Criminal Justice

Certificate, Lay Advocate/Paralegal

Shanna Robertson

Associate of Arts, Chemical Addictions Studies

Associate of Arts, Social Work

Phyllis Runs Through

Associate of Arts, General Studies

Lori Sande

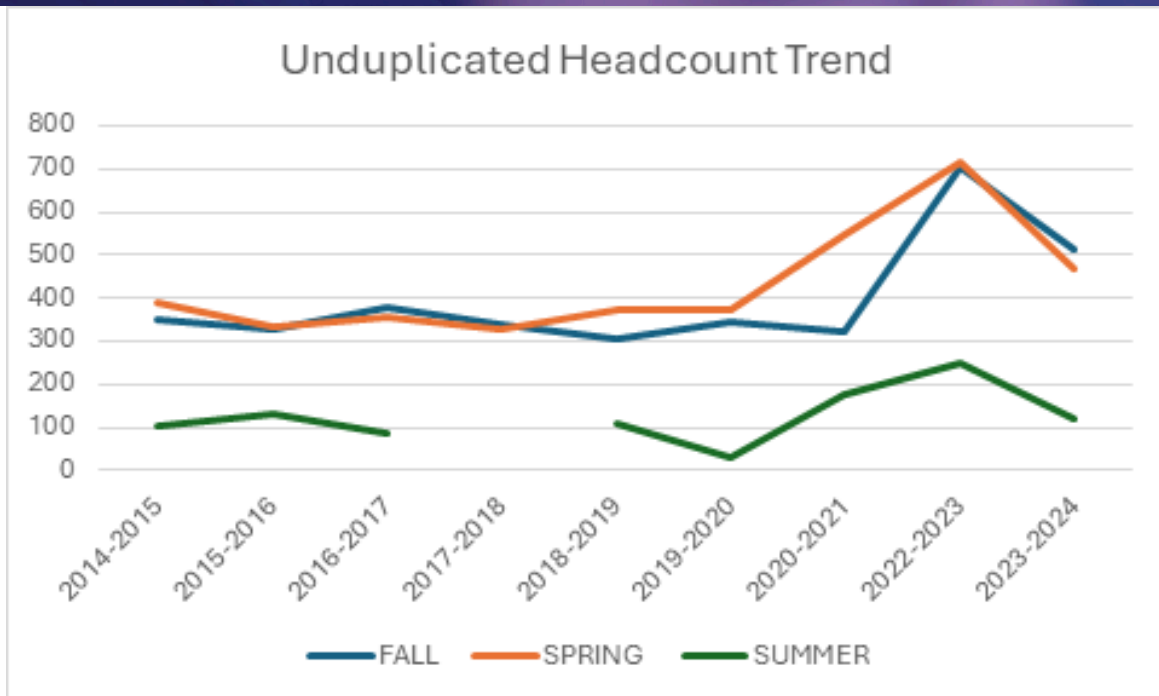
Associate of Arts, Elementary Education

# IN PERSON

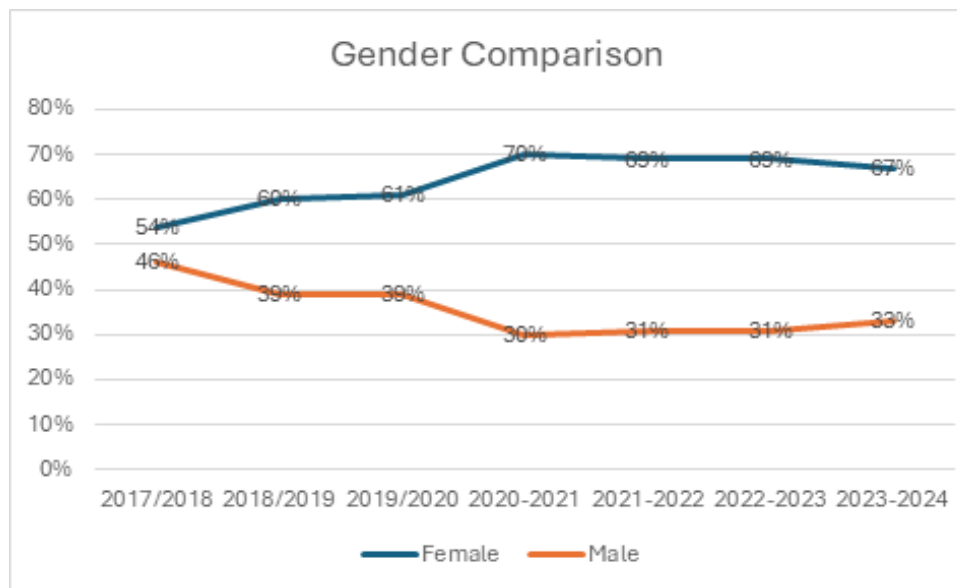
**Student enrollment by Semester:**

**Fall 2023: 512**

**Spring 2024: 468**

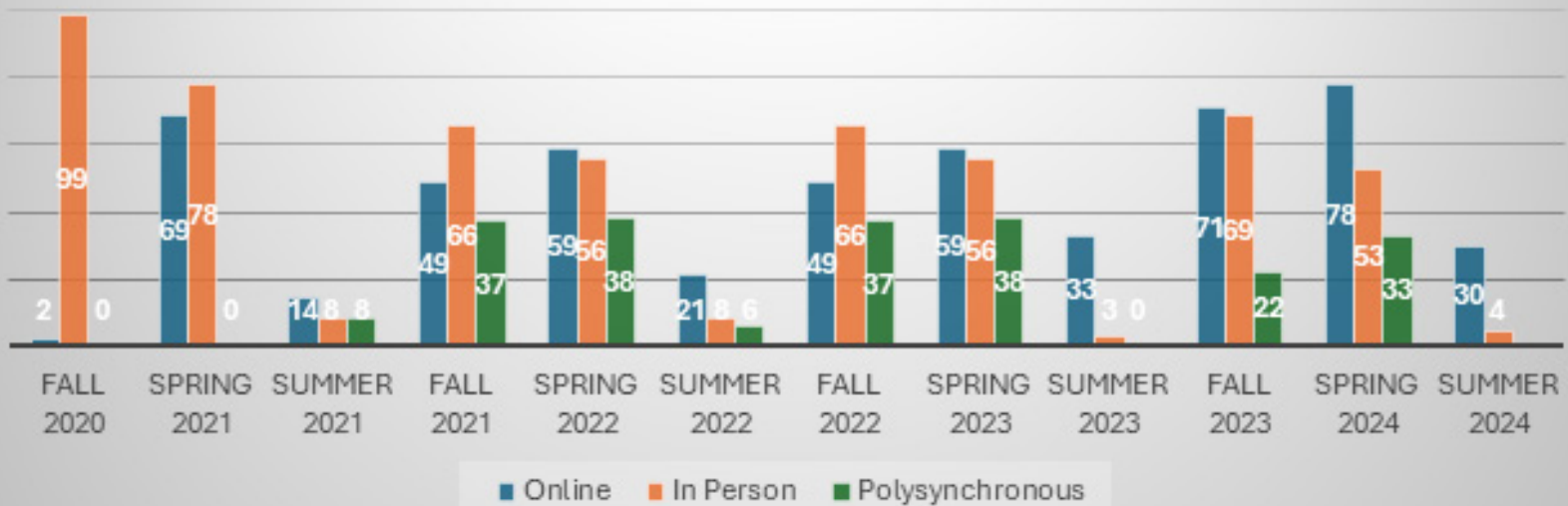


67% of the student population for the AY 2023-2024 were females, and 33% were males. These numbers have been consistent for the past three years. Females continue to represent the larger student body population.

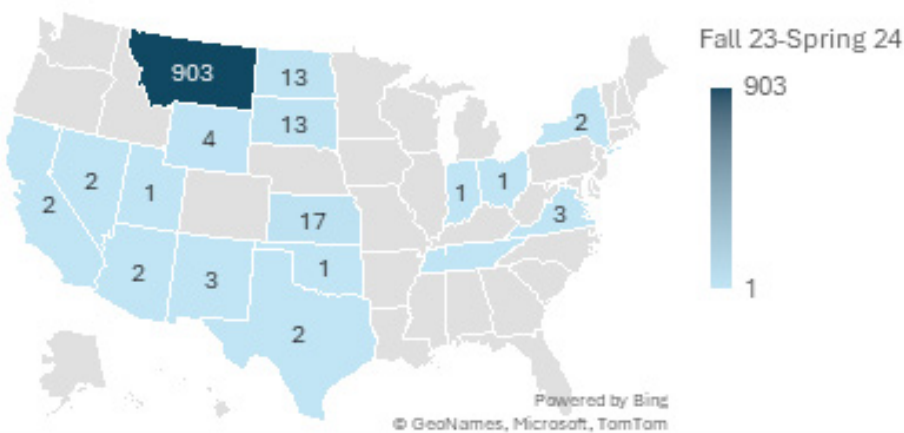




## Course Delivery Comparison

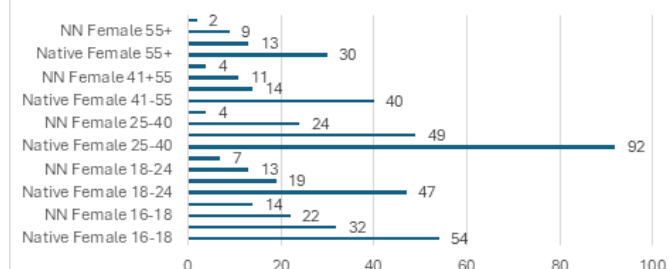


## Student Enrollment by State



## Enrollment by Ethnicity and Age

Fall 2023



# WO'KINIHAN SUMMER STEM ACADEMY



Wo'kinihan Summer STEM Academy started out with participants taking a four-week Fields Methods course instructed by FPCC's Environmental Science instructor, Joanne Stewart as well as an introduction to Judy Ogle's GIS course that is regularly offered at FPCC. Students learned different methods for conducting research and gathering data specific to projects on the Fort Peck Reservation.

The second segment of the Wo'kinihan Summer STEM Academy consisted of workshops concentrating on STEM opportunities and careers offered in our local area. The STEM Academy focused on increased awareness for high school aged students and FPCC students and connected western science and Indigenous ways of knowing. The series of workshops included an introduction to drone capabilities, opportunities at the Fort Peck Tribes Bison Heard, Ethno-mathematics, and Ethnobotany.

This unique opportunity served over on hundred high school students represented from all four high schools on the Fort Peck Reservation as well as FPCC students.

Funding was provided by the US Department of Education's Minority in Science & Engineering Improvement Project Grant (MSEIP).



# CDC GOOD HEALTH IN WELLNESS IN INDIAN COUNTRY



The Fort Peck Community College (FPCC) Wellness Department is proud to be awarded the Good Health and Wellness in Indian Country (GHWIC) grant for the third consecutive cycle. This milestone marks the 11th year that FPCC has received funding under this program, a testament to its ongoing commitment to improving health and wellness on the Fort Peck Reservation.

The GHWIC initiative, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), supports community-driven efforts to address chronic diseases such as diabetes, obesity, and heart disease in Native American communities. Over the past decade, FPCC has used this funding to implement culturally relevant health interventions that blend Dakota and Nakoda traditions with evidence-based health practices. Central to these efforts is the Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP), a cornerstone initiative designed to empower individuals and families to lead healthier lives.

## VISION AND CORE

FPCC envisions a future where health and culture are seamlessly integrated, creating sustainable models for chronic disease prevention. The current GHWIC-funded program builds on the successes of previous cycles, with a focus on three primary strategies: Providing a Cultural Foundation for Health: Utilizing Dakota and Nakoda traditions, the program emphasizes family-centered cultural activities to strengthen community bonds and foster wellness.

1. Providing a Cultural Foundation for Health: Utilizing Dakota and Nakoda traditions, the program emphasizes family-centered cultural activities to strengthen community bonds and foster wellness.

Building Community-Clinical Linkages: Participants are connected to vital healthcare, social services, and wellness resources, ensuring access to screenings, referrals, and culturally tailored diabetes prevention programs.

2. Building Community-Clinical Linkages: Participants are connected to vital healthcare, social services, and wellness resources, ensuring access to screenings, referrals, and culturally tailored diabetes prevention programs.

3. Promoting Multidisciplinary Team Care: Collaboration among healthcare providers, community workers, and social service representatives ensures comprehensive, patient-centered care.

# CHALLENGES AND GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

Despite its successes, the program has faced challenges that it seeks to address in this third cycle: Clinical Integration; Establishing stronger partnerships with local healthcare providers to streamline lab testing and referrals for participants; Cultural Alignment: Deepening the integration of Dakota and Nakoda traditions, including language, prayer, and ceremonies, into program activities; CDC Recognition: Achieving Preliminary and Full Recognition for the DPP through the CDC's Diabetes Prevention Recognition Program, a goal that aligns with long-term program sustainability.

This new funding cycle will enable FPCC to expand its efforts over the next five years. Key initiatives include: Launching additional DPP cohorts with family-oriented and youth-focused interventions; Establishing a second Double SNAP Dollars site in Poplar to improve food affordability for residents; Organizing annual cultural events, such as Food Sovereignty Day, to strengthen community engagement; Training new Lifestyle Coaches and developing new culturally-centered wellness activities, such as traditional dances and lacrosse camps.

By merging cultural heritage with public health strategies, FPCC is addressing the root causes of health disparities and empowering the Fort Peck community to thrive. The program's holistic approach ensures not only improved health outcomes but also a revitalization of cultural practices and values, creating a sustainable foundation for wellness.

The program is led by myself, Tomecina Bullshoe, Project Director, who brings extensive experience in cultural preservation, Dakota language, and project management. My leadership ensures that the program remains deeply rooted in the community's traditions while achieving measurable health outcomes. FPCC collaborates with numerous partners, including the Fort Peck Tribal Health Department, Montana DPHHS, and the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council. These partnerships strengthen the program's reach and impact, connecting participants to a network of resources and expertise.

The GHWIC grant and DPP program at FPCC represent a critical investment in the health and well-being of the Fort Peck Reservation. Over the past 11 years, this initiative has demonstrated that blending cultural heritage with innovative health strategies can yield profound and lasting benefits. As the program enters its third cycle, it continues to serve as a model for community-driven, culturally responsive healthcare that empowers individuals and families to lead healthier, more fulfilling lives.

# BRYOR SMITH: STUDENT SUCCESS



Bryor Roy Smith, an associate member of the Fort Peck Assiniboiné and Sioux Tribes, graduated from Wolf Point High School in 2020. Bryor was able to earn over 20 college credits in high school through dual credit courses offered by FPCC. He went to Montana State University-Billings for his first year but due to national issues with the corona virus and many universities navigating new ways to learn and teach, he came back to FPCC for the 2021-2022 school year. This decision allowed him to earn his Associates of General Studies in May 2022 while working and being closer to family.

"Coming back to FPCC was the absolute best decision I could have made for myself" relayed Smith. "Making this decision allowed me to learn how to navigate college courses both online and in person, I was also able to think more on which degree path I would like to chase for my bachelors."

"FPCC has so much to offer that I don't think many people realize. They are always getting new grants and innovating in a variety of areas to educate the whole student" declared Smith. "My educational experience was nothing but positive during my time at FPCC. The small class size allows for students to create good relationships with professors, and really get the most out of each class; a true benefit that you would not normally see at a bigger university."

After the 2021-22 school year at FPCC, he moved back to Billings, Montana to attend Montana State University-Billings. Bryor graduated in May 2024 with his Bachelors of Science degree in Sociology and minors in Criminal Justice and English. He earned the Most Outstanding Graduate for his program along the way.

Bryor has now started his career as he came back and accepted a position at FPCC as a Student Engagement Coordinator for the Canku Project. He conveyed that he is so happy to be able to bring his education back to where he is from and be an advocate for the youth to pursue higher education. He is the son of Craig and Leanne Smith, and has three siblings, Jared, Halie and Thea.

"I speak highly of this institution when asked about my time at FPCC," continued Smith. "It was truly the best decision I made in my educational journey. It was a great stepping-stone for my journey and played a key role in all my success. I highly recommend considering FPCC to anyone who is looking to further their education."

# STUDENT OF THE YEAR, 2023/24

## GIB MEDICINE CLOUD

*"I didn't think I would be taking this educational journey at this point in my life, and because of the overall support system Fort Peck Community College provided me, I will be graduating with my associate degree and I'm looking forward to going after my bachelor's degree next. I would just say to other students, make sure to utilize FPCC staff because they will support you throughout your educational journey."*

**Gib Medicine Cloud, FPCC Student of the Year 2023/24**

FPCC Student of the Year, Gib Medicine Cloud, will be recognized at the annual American Indian College Fund awards banquet in Minneapolis, MN next month for his outstanding academic achievement. Gib, along with 34 other Tribal College students from across Indian Country, are being celebrated for community engagement and academic honors.



# EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



My name is Lori Smoker, I was born and raised in Poplar, Montana, where I still live today with my husband and our four children, Stephen, Leah, Shiloh, and Selah. My path has always been shaped by a deep love of learning and a passion for serving our community. While raising my children, I pursued my education whenever I could, taking courses online and in-person at Fort Peck Community College. In 2019, I joined the Teachers of Native Nations Project, a collaborative initiative between FPCC and MSU-Northern that's continued to open doors for Indigenous educators. This experience was pivotal in reigniting my commitment to education and service.

In 2021, I earned my Bachelor's in Education from MSU-Northern. Shortly after, I stepped into the role of Library Director at the James E. Shanley Tribal Library at FPCC. This position became a space where my passion truly came to life. For nearly two years, I had the privilege of serving students, staff, faculty, and community members through programming that reflected and celebrated our culture, supported literacy, and helped people access information in empowering ways. From organizing community events and book clubs to creating a welcoming and inclusive environment, my goal was always to make the library not just a place of resources, but a place of belonging. It has been incredibly meaningful to help others discover a love for learning and reading, and to prove how a library can serve as the heart of a community. It has been such an incredible honor to be recognized as Staff of the Year because it's a reflection of the passion I bring to my work and the support of our community.

In late 2024, I transitioned into a new role with the Jeannette Rankin Foundation, carrying forward everything I've learned from my time at FPCC. I am currently completing my Master's in Education, with a focus on Instruction and Learning, and will graduate in May 2025. The support and opportunities I've received from Fort Peck Community College, from FPCC student to FPCC librarian, have been instrumental to my journey. I remain as committed as ever to promoting literacy, access, and community through every chapter ahead.



# FACULTY OF THE YEAR



I am Traci Sadler and am lucky to call Poplar my hometown. I grew up in Poplar, attended school from first grade through graduation and have spent much of my adult life teaching in the area. After high school, I chose to attend college in Missoula, MT. I obtained a major in Biology and a minor in Mathematics with teaching endorsements for each area. In 2002, I began my teaching career in Wolf Point, MT as I taught 7th and 8th grade mathematics. In 2007, I transferred to the high school and taught Integrated Math 1, Chemistry, and Physics. In 2009, I began teaching courses at FPCC. Over the years I have taught M 090, M 095, M 111, M121, M 145, PHSX 105, PHSX 106, BIOH 201, BIOH 202, CHMY 121, CHMY 122, BIOM 250, BIOM 251, BIOB 160, and BIOB 161. I began teaching in Poplar, MT in 2011. Throughout my years teaching in Poplar I have taught 8th grade Mathematics, Algebra 1, Chemistry, Physics, JOM, and Earth Science. I have enjoyed my teaching experiences in both Poplar Schools and FPCC.

My interactions with community members, colleagues, and students have helped cultivate me into the diverse person I am today.



**FORT PECK COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS**  
**YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2023**  
**Major Funds**

	General	Endowment	BIE Education Stabilization Fund	Nonmajor Funds	Total Governmental Funds
<b>REVENUES</b>					
Federal grants	\$ 3,189,403	\$ -	\$ 1,565,807	\$ 7,832,915	\$ 12,588,125
State grants	346,149	-	-	104,523	450,672
Private foundation grants	-	-	-	748,036	748,036
Tuition and fees	1,052,682	-	-	-	1,052,682
Charges for goods and services	123,005	-	-	-	123,005
Investment earnings	61,886	101,416	-	-	163,302
Miscellaneous	94,536	9,059	-	-	103,595
Indirect cost recovery	349,644	-	-	-	349,644
Total revenues	5,217,305	110,475	1,565,807	8,685,474	15,579,061
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>					
Current:					
Administration:					
Program expense	524,275	-	-	105,261	629,536
Indirect cost expense	-	-	-	7,674	7,674
Institutional support:					
Program expense	733,850	-	1,565,807	1,666,502	3,966,159
Academic: Program expense	667,315	-	-	2,022,165	2,689,480
Indirect cost expense	-	-	-	119,333	119,333
Vocational:					
Program expense	-	-	-	323,066	323,066
Indirect cost expense	-	-	-	11,416	11,416
Student services: Program expense	280,385	-	-	345,504	625,889
Indirect cost expense	-	-	-	16,746	16,746
Financial aid: Program expense	87,831	-	-	1,064,503	1,152,334
Community services:					
Program expense	-	-	-	1,545,206	1,545,206
Indirect cost expense	-	-	-	88,012	88,012
Library:					
Program expense	82,502	-	53,138	-	135,640
Information technology:					
Program expense	110,017	-	-	-	110,017
Wellness center:					
Program expense	5,696	-	-	-	5,696
Research:					
Program expense	-	-	344,651	-	344,651
Indirect cost expense	-	-	106,462	-	106,462
Facilities and services:					
Program expense	730,843	-	37,098	-	767,941
Dormitory:					
Program expense	59,217	-	-	-	59,217
Debt service:					
Principal	74,212	-	-	-	74,212
Interest	18,939	-	-	-	18,939
Capital outlay	-	-	-	828,737	828,737
Total expenditures	3,375,082	-	1,565,807	8,685,474	13,626,363
Excess of revenues over expenditures	1,842,223	110,475	-	-	1,952,698
Net change in fund balances	1,842,223	110,475	-	-	1,952,698
Fund balances - beginning	7,171,259	3,225,440	-	-	10,396,699
<b>Fund balances - ending</b>	<b>\$ 9,013,482</b>	<b>\$ 3,335,915</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 12,349,397</b>

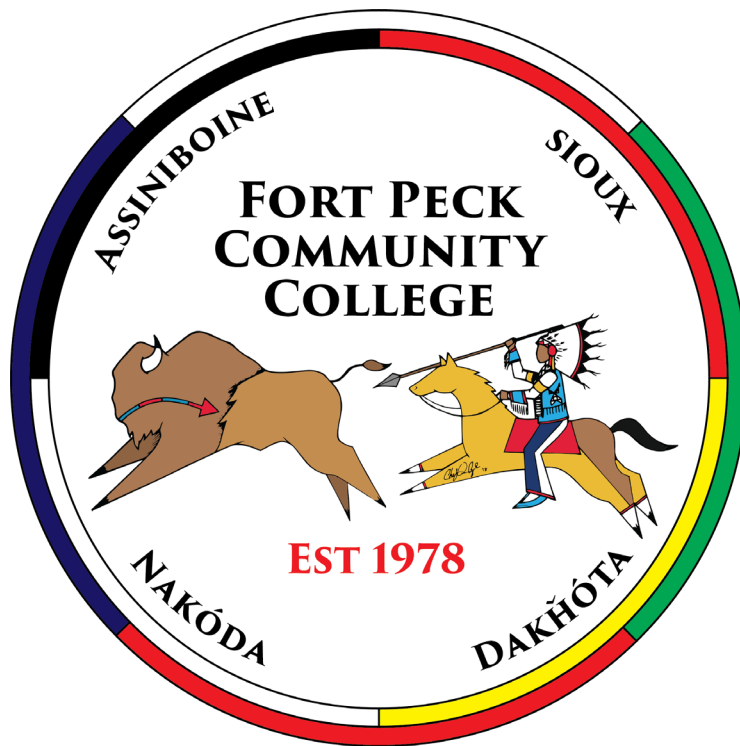


# DISABILITY RESOURCE FAIR

The Disability Resource Fair was hosted in conjunction with the Montana Statewide Independent living council. The purpose of the resource fair was to familiarize students, community members, educators, businesses, parents, healthcare workers, caretakers, advocates and those with disabilities with the various programs available in the state of Montana and how to access them. Twenty providers from across the state attended and shared about the resources they provide to Montanans.







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**COMMUNITY**