



Work-based Learning Collaborative Convenes in Bozeman

Over twenty members of the Work-based Learning Collaborative gathered last week at the Montana Manufacturing Extension Center for our quarterly meeting. Attendees engaged with an informative panel on insurance and student workers, tackled group work projects, heard from an employer who hosts both adult and youth work-based learning experiences, and shared updates with one another. It was inspiring to discuss strategies to strengthen work-based learning in our state.

Thank you to West Paw, Wood Powr-Grip, First West Insurance, and Montana School Board Association for sharing your insights! And thank you to Vision Aerial for hosting a tour for the WBLC members.

Professional Development and Learning Opportunities:

Virtual Forum: Building the Rural Work Force (free!)

Wednesday, May 1 at 12pm:

Explore how colleges and employers can partner to invest in students and strengthen the local workforce.

- Building connections
- Launching partnerships
- Adapting to the job market

Learn more and register [here!](#)



Total Internship Management Workshop

May 14, 8:30 - 4pm

Bozeman

InternBridge will present the Total Internship Management Workshop. Learn more and register [here!](#) This full-day highly interactive workshop is perfect for anyone coordinating internships or anyone interested in improving their organization's talent pipeline!

In today's competitive business landscape, internships are a crucial component of workforce development and organizational growth. If your organization seeks to enhance its talent pipeline and develop the next generation of leaders, this is the workshop for you. By the end of the workshop, you will be equipped with the knowledge and tools to build and maintain a successful internship program that not only attracts top talent but also contributes to your organization's long-term success!

The Work-based Learning Collaborative has limited **50% scholarships for WBLC members** to help cover the cost of this incredibly valuable workshop. Please reach out to [Gabrielle](#) for more information.

Disability Employment Conference (free!)

May 14-16, 2024

Great Falls

Join Montana Vocational Rehabilitation and Blind Services 2nd Annual Disability Employment Conference at the Great Falls College. This year's agenda will be full of topics that are meaningful to Montana employers and Human Resource Hiring Managers. These topics include AI in the Workplace, Mental Health in the Workplace, Investing in



Getting the Word Out About Work-based Learning

WBLC Director Gabrielle Eklund Rowley has been sharing information on the Collaborative, work-based learning options, and work-based learning best practices at some conferences this spring. She sat on a national panel titled Empowering Tomorrow's Innovators: STEM Career Exploration for All Youth, presented on the What and Why of WBL for the Montana School Counselors Association conference, and will present WBL Across the Ages at the Montana Afterschool Alliance conference.

For WBL resources, please visit www.wblmt.org.

Kelly Cresswell wins YWCA Helena Woman of the Year award

Kelly Cresswell, executive director of Reach Higher Montana, received the [YWCA Helena Maria Dean Woman of the Year](#). She was honored at the Empowered event, held to acknowledge women's leadership, advocacy, and excellence. Kelly was recognized for her unwavering commitment to empowering women in her community and across the state. The annual award goes to a Helena-area woman who exemplifies a commitment to the Helena community, provides leadership and mentorship to help advance the welfare of women and children, and lifts the voices of others in her efforts to eliminate racism and empower women. We are incredibly proud of Kelly, and know she is fully deserving of this recognition!

Reach Higher Montana is the backbone organization of the Work-based Learning Collaborative.



News You Can Use

All Louisiana internships for credit must now be paid after Board of Elementary and Secondary Education changes [policy](#).

Jobs for the Future comments on the [proposed rules](#) for updating the National Apprenticeship System. JFF advocates for an inclusive, innovative approach that expands apprenticeships into new sectors, ensuring they become a cornerstone for equitable economic mobility and workforce development.

What is Youth Apprenticeship? "Youth apprenticeship is not simply a job; it is a postsecondary strategy intended to teach a wide range of industry-specific knowledge and skills and help young people...advance into successful careers."



Upcoming meetings:
Quarterly Meeting (in-person)
Thursday, April 11
Bozeman

Questions? Contact:
Gabrielle Eklund Rowley
WBLC Collaborative Director
Email: growley@ReachHigherMontana.org

Work That Matters

Work-based learning (WBL) opportunities span a continuum from workplace tours to apprenticeships (and many models in between).

In addition to building employability skills, WBL experiences help students develop **meaning** from their classroom learning and explore **purposeful** career opportunities. Employers who intentionally cultivate **belonging** in the workplace for young workers can gain access to future workforce talent. The Montana Work-Based Learning Collaborative works to promote belonging, meaning, well-being, and purpose for all young Montanans by building capacity for high-quality WBL experiences.

There are components of work-based learning in the K-12 education system, the postsecondary education system, and the public workforce system – but no single entry point for students or employers to access them. Our work to improve coordination among agencies and WBL partners benefits Montana’s emerging workforce and Montana’s businesses.

Sent to: info@reachhighermontana.org

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