



Quarterly Newsletter - October 2023



## Blank Foundation Grant

The Work-Based Learning Collaborative is grateful to the **Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation (AMBFF)** for many reasons, like allowing us to convene at West Creek Ranch, and supporting our work with Kinetic West the past couple of years.

Recently, AMBFF awarded the Collaborative a grant in the amount of \$375,000 to support the work of the Collaborative through 2024. This includes adding two staff positions (see below), continuing our engagement with Kinetic West, and full implementation of the Collaborative's data measurement plan.

Our deliverables include the creation of a data dashboard, increased engagement with businesses to support work-based learning, and overall capacity building for the Collaborative, which includes development of an operational plan, a three-year strategic plan, and engaging more funders in our work.

The Collaborative has come so far in just a couple of years, and this support will catalyze our work into the future. **Thank you, AMBFF!**

## Job Openings

**WE'RE HIRING**  
**JOIN OUR TEAM**

- ✓ WBL Collaborative Director
- ✓ WBL Collaborative Data Analyst

To Apply Visit  
[ReachHigherMontana.org/employment](https://ReachHigherMontana.org/employment)

Work-based Learning Collaborative MONTANA

Reach Higher Montana

SUPPORT BUSINESSES | SUPPORT EDUCATION | EXPAND STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

## Teacher Externship Video Available

The Collaborative's Teacher Externship program continues to grow and evolve, and we've created a new video to help with employer recruitment for the program. The video is available on the [WBL website](#) - **feel free to share it widely!**





## Future Forward: Bringing Education, Workforce & Technology

Hosted by WBL Collaborative member EdChoice and The Policy Circle, Future Forward was held in Bozeman on September 20. The program featured a panel of WBL Collaborative members - James Easton from the Montana Chamber Foundation, Gabrielle Eklund Rowley from American Jobs for America's Youth - MT, and Kelly Cresswell from Reach Higher Montana. Brian McGrath moderated the panel discussion. Governor Gianforte was the keynote speaker at the event.

## Montana's Future at Work

The second annual **Montana's Future at Work Summit** was held in gorgeous Red Lodge, Montana. Educators traveled from all across the state to learn from students, employers, state agency leaders and Reach Higher Montana (RHM) about how we can better help Montana meet growing workforce needs. One highlight of



the program was learning about Teacher Externships from Jason Butcher, an Outreach Advisor for RHM. Montana's Future at Work is sponsored by The Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation and is aimed at supporting high school students to a workforce credential before they graduate.

## Quarterly WBL Collaborative Meeting Recap

The October meeting of the WBL Collaborative was held October 6 at the Great Falls Job Service. In addition to productive time for workgroups, we learned from Chanda Hermanson with DPHHS about the programs they offer to help youth with disabilities participate in the workforce. These programs - Pre-Employment Training Services (Pre-ETS) and Vocational Rehabilitation - can help young workers and their employers with assistive technology, onboarding, and in some cases, wage subsidies. [Check them out!](#)

## Questions:

**Kelly Cresswell**

Reach Higher of Montana Executive Director

Email: [kresswell@reachhighermontana.org](mailto:kresswell@reachhighermontana.org)

Sent to: [info@reachhighermontana.org](mailto:info@reachhighermontana.org)

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Reach Higher Montana, 7 West 6th Ave. Ste. 615, Helena, MT 59601, United States

