



MEDIA RELEASE

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IMAGE: Stock photo of teacher with students

MCC to hold Community Focused Professional Development Series “Teachers Institute”

MILES CITY, MONTANA: In conjunction with workforce development, Miles Community College is hosting its annual Teachers Institute classes. These professional development opportunities feature one- and two-day courses, focused on a variety of subjects, and aimed at teachers seeking OPI credit renewal. They are also open to the public and to those interested in the subjects offered.

Eight classes remain this summer, with online registration available leading up until a few days before each session. Registration costs are based per class, with some additional fees for those requiring travel or meals. This year features subjects including youth mental health, student engagement, quantum science, Montana geology/paleontology, and writing.

Course Schedule/Descriptions:

June 27 - Youth Mental Health First Aid

Youth Mental Health First Aid is an evidence-based, early-intervention course that teaches participants about mental health and substance use challenges. Lunch period is shorter to allow for more instructional time and group discussion; lunch is provided.

July 1 - National Cinemas

(online only, content available starting July 1)

An in-depth look at classic cinematic productions from the United States based on cultural and historical context. Includes a selection of films by a variety of directors and genres from the Silent Era into the present. Students will consider American films that have been affected by American culture and films that have affected American culture.

July 7-8 - Increasing Student Engagement

How do educators get students to be learners instead of just being taught? There are many factors that influence student engagement. Some are in an educator's control; some are not. Participants in this course will focus on student voice, classroom environment, play, and problem-based learning to support relevance and student facilitated learning, which leads to increased student success.

July 11 - Quantum is Coming: How to Bring This Exciting Emerging Technology into K-12 Classrooms

(hybrid; content available June 3; FREE)

Quantum science and technologies are emerging STEM fields that have the potential to bring new careers and businesses to Montana, the nation, and the world. You can learn more about this exciting topic in a way that helps you bring basic concepts into your middle and/or high school classroom(s). No prior knowledge or experience is necessary.

July 17-18 - Geology and Paleontology of Montana and Kumamoto, Japan

Participants will discover more about geology and paleontology in Montana by taking a field trip to the Carter County Museum, host of the world-famous annual Dino Shindig. They will also learn about educational resources available as part of a research trip to Japan. Teaching materials provided focus on 5th and 6th grades but can be adapted and applied to additional age groups.

July 21 - Information Literacy

(hybrid; content available from July 7-20)

This course is designed to equip students with the essential skills needed to navigate the vast landscape of information resources. Students will learn how to identify credible sources, critically assess information, and apply it ethically and effectively in various contexts. The course consists of online content, plus one in-person session.

July 22-23 - Integrate Arts to Engage Students and Deepen Understanding

Deepen understanding, while minimizing behavior issues with arts integration! In this hands-on course, you will discover a variety of project-based activities (one or more for each month of the year). While the target audience is for grades 3-6, the projects can be adapted for grades K-8 and will encompass a wide variety of subjects. Whether you are new to teaching or a seasoned veteran, you will be ready to start the school year with many new ideas to implement in your classroom! Students will be provided art materials they can take with them following course completion.

July 22-23 - Progression of Writing

Writing is tied to every other teaching domain. Understanding the progression of writing and realistic expectations for students as, above, and below the grade level is vital in helping students become strong writers. In this hands-on course, participants will learn how each writing strand flows from grade level to grade level, as well as a variety of writing techniques instructors can use at any grade level to help improve writing in the classroom.

July 24-25 - What They Didn't Teach You in School

According to research, teachers make an average of 1,500 decisions daily. Begin the year with tools and methods to stay ahead of your students. This hands-on course will teach you how to navigate the first week of school, daily routines, classroom behavior/management, parents (conferences), grading, disruptions, and so much more. Build a portfolio of resources tailored to your needs and start the year off right!

For the current schedule or to register, visit bit.ly/MCCTeachersInstitute. For more information, please contact Elizabeth Smith, MCC Workforce Development Coordinator at 406-874-6168 or smithe@milesc.edu.

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