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### Q1 Contact Information for Nomination

Name of Contact	<b>Katie Vaughan</b>
Full Name of State Agency	<b>Montana Department of Labor &amp; Industry</b>
Email Address	<b>katrina.vaughan@mt.gov</b>
Name of Initiative the state (and/or partnership) is being nominated for:	<b>Become an Alum</b>

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**Q2 1.** Provide a brief description of the innovative services, innovative service delivery, or efforts of national impact you have chosen as your primary focus for the nomination. Response Word Limit: 150

120,000 Montanans have some college credit, but left school before completing a degree. Montana also faces a shortage of workers, especially skilled workers. To close the attainment gap, and build a trained workforce, Governor Bullock prioritized increasing the number of individuals with a degree, certificate or credential.

The Montana Department of Labor & Industry (MTDLI) partnered with the Montana University System to identify, contact and re-enroll individuals who left the University of Montana in the past 5 years without completing a degree or credential, and still reside in the area. Numerous methods of outreach were conducted. \$50,000 was committed and over 1,200 staff hours were dedicated. 2 MTDLI staff were embedded on campuses. These staff are “one-stop” advisors for all re-enrollment processes. Local employers in high-demand, high-wage industries were engaged as partners, creating a seamless pipeline for the eventual graduates, so they are confident in local employment upon program completion.

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2020 NASWA State Innovation Award Nomination - <br><strong>Pinnacle Award for Workforce Development</strong>

**Q3 2.** Provide a statement of results, accomplishments, impacts and any other appropriate information that demonstrates why the nominee's efforts described in question #1 were an exceptional contribution. Response Word Limit: 200

Outreach to 885 former students began in the late spring of 2019. By the fall semester, 99 students were re-enrolled. 36 new participants have registered for the spring semester and over 70 are in the pipeline for future re-admission. Local labor market information is provided to students, so informed decision-making can occur. The University is also an economic engine for Missoula and Montana, strong enrollment supports the statewide economy. Additionally, advanced education virtually guarantees higher earnings.

MTDLI initially reached out to local employers to solicit their participation. 16 have made an ongoing commitment to participating in the program. By engaging local employers in this effort, a successful collaboration is occurring between UM, MTDLI and the business community. Employers are disclosing their workforce needs, the University is designing curricula around those requirements, and MTDLI is working with individuals to enroll in these high-demand programs. Employers are also using this as a tool for recruitment of new employees, and for training for their current workforce, providing them a program that allows for potential business growth in a constrained labor market. By bridging gaps between these groups, nimble course delivery is occurring and awareness and support of MTDLI and University programs is growing.

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**Q4 3.** Provide a brief description of the nominee's significant contributions in any one of the other two areas listed under "criteria" that you did not focus on above. Response Word Limit: 200

The program uses a creative, personal and proactive approach to assist students in getting back into the classroom. A survey was developed to identify the barriers that individuals identified to re-enrollment. From that, specialized cross-training was developed so embedded staff could provide the significant support and service integration to overcome obstacles that prevented initial completion. Staff provides directed advising, mentorship and guidance for students, as well as determines eligibility and assists in enlisting in various supportive job training and assistance programs. Students receive individual supports that are customized to their situation. Depending on need, students are also offered financial assistance and academic forgiveness programs.

Additionally, the University has adjusted course offerings and delivery to accommodate the requirement of re-enrollees and local employers. These students are all non-traditional and most are employed. They require flexible scheduling and accommodations to meet their situations.

Through this program, local employers are coordinating with MTDLI the University to offer specific credentials and programming that meet their unique business needs. The contribution of professional expertise and support from the local business leaders is increasing the understanding among students and the community of the value and relevance of attaining a degree, certificate or credential.

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**Q5 4.** Provide samples of work including creative materials, videos, graphics, documents, plans, etc. regarding the efforts and results you outlined in questions #1 and #2. File size limit is 16 MB. Only PDF, DOC, DOCX, PNG, JPG, JPEG, GIF files are supported.

**010820 NASWA Award Submission BAA video path.docx (11.9KB)**

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**Q6** Sample of Work #2 File size limit is 16 MB.

**010820 NASWA Award Submission BAA website path.docx (11.9KB)**

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**Q7** Sample of Work #3 File size limit is 16 MB.

**BecomeAnAlum-RackCard-Final.pdf (1.4MB)**

2020 NASWA State Innovation Award Nomination - **Pinnacle Award for Workforce Development**

**Q8** Sample of Work #4File size limit is 16 MB.

**BecomeAnAlum-postcard\_9x6-Final.pdf (1.5MB)**

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**Q9** Sample of Work #5File size limit is 16 MB.

**Email Screen Shot.jpg (322.2KB)**

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**Q10** Please upload a statement of approval from the Agency Administrator

**010820 NASWA Award Submission Letter.pdf (117KB)**

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Montana Department of  
**LABOR & INDUSTRY**


January 8, 2020

National Association of State Workforce Agencies  
444 North Capitol Street, NW  
Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20001

To Whom It May Concern:

I approve the submission of the attached nomination for the 2020 Pinnacle Award for Workforce Development from the National Association of State Workforce Agencies.

Sincerely,



Tom Lopach

Please link to the following to view the Montana Department of Labor & Industry and University of Montana "Become an Alum" introductory video. The file format of mp3 is not supported in the upload feature for the award submission.

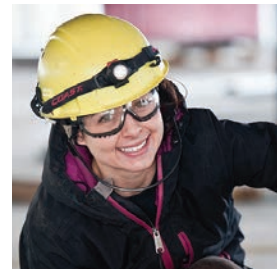
<https://vimeo.com/293463914/017376cd38>

Please link to the following to view the Montana Department of Labor & Industry and University of Montana "Become an Alum" website. The upload feature doesn't support sending a direct hyperlink.

<https://montanaworks.gov/finish-your-degree>



 Become an Alum - *get started today!*



Montana Department of  
**LABOR & INDUSTRY**

**MISSOULA COLLEGE**  
UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

# Got off Track? Come on Back!

**Are you interested in a job you love with great pay? Want to change direction?  
Did you start on a path at the University of Montana, but life got in the way?**

We have options waiting for you – flexible opportunities to engage in training and connect with employers who are ready to hire.

Please contact Job Service Missoula at (406) 728-7060 and ask about the **“Become an Alum”** program or visit [MontanaWorks.gov/finish-your-degree](https://montanaworks.gov/finish-your-degree) and find out more.

<<First Name>> <<Last Name>>  
<<Address1>>  
<<Address2>>  
<<City>>, <<State>> <<Zip>>



- send cupcakes  
to school  
- pick up dry  
cleaning

- buy milk  
- get oil  
changed

Become  
an Alum



Check one thing off your list!



Become  
an Alum.  
*get started today!*

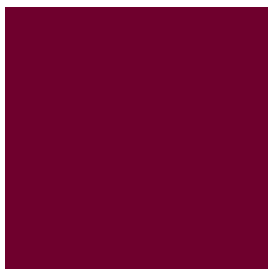
Life gets in the way sometimes. We all start things we don't finish. But the University of Montana can help you check one thing off your list — **becoming an alum!**



# If you got off track, you can still come on Back!

With our **Become an Alum** program, we have myriad ways for you to return to the University of Montana or Missoula College and complete a certificate, an associate's or bachelor's degree. You can take classes in the evening, during the summer or even online, never having to step foot on campus again (except to walk in graduation, of course!). **Whatever got in the way of finishing the first time, we can help you address it.**

We want you to be able to check this one thing off your list. It could not be easier. Not only do we want you to be able to check this one thing off your list, we have local businesses who are looking to hire alum. Please contact **Job Service Missoula at (406) 728-7060** and ask about the Become an Alum program or visit **[MontanaWorks.gov/finish-your-degree](http://MontanaWorks.gov/finish-your-degree)** and find out more.



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