Polson High School
Guidance Department

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES AND PROGRAMS

- Students--grades 9-12
- Sophomores
- Juniors
- Women
- American Indians and other Minorities
- Economically and/or Educationally Disadvantaged Students
- Students with Disabilities
**STUDENTS—GRADES 9-12**

**Voice of Democracy Contest**—The Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliary sponsor an annual *Voice of Democracy Contest*. The VOD contest is open to students, grades 9-12. Participants submit a 3-5 minute original essay, recorded on audiocassette to the high school Guidance Office or their local Veterans of Foreign Wars contact person. The Essay theme varies from year to year. **The deadline for application is generally November 1st.** Paul and Shirley Borchers are the local contact persons. Scholarships are awarded at the local level; local winners advance to progressively higher levels. The National first place winner wins a $25,000 scholarship.

**American Legion Oratorical Contest**—The American Legion sponsors this yearly oratorical contest. Local winners advance to District and Zone and Department contests. Local awards are given, and scholarships and fee waivers are available for contestants who advance in the competition. The local deadline varies, but is usually in December. Robert Radtke is the contact person for the Polson area.

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Contest**—The Flathead Reservation Human Rights Coalition sponsors the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Art and Writing Contest. First Prize for 9-12th grades is a $100 US Savings Bond. The deadline is mid-February. Entries are displayed at the Sandpiper Art Gallery.
**SOPHOMORES**

**HOBY**—Each year one delegate is nominated from Polson High School to attend the annual state HOBY Leadership seminar in Missoula. Selection is based upon incentive, demonstrated leadership ability and service, as well as essays students have written on leadership topics. The seminar is offered at no cost to participants. One boy and one girl from the state leadership seminar will be chosen to represent Montana at the HOBY World Leadership Congress, coordinated by George Washington University. All sophomores are required to write the essays as part of their Sophomore English curriculum, but students wishing to apply to the HOBY contest must submit their essay, and an application form (available at the Guidance Office or from your English 10 teacher) to the Guidance office by November 15th.

**JUNIORS**

**Boys State**—The Montana American Legion Auxiliary sponsors the annual *Boys State*, an opportunity for 5 Polson High School juniors to participate in a week-long, government education program held at the Western Montana College campus in Dillon in June. Application are available from the Guidance Office in early January and due in late January. Five delegates and two alternates are selected from the pool of applicants. Local sponsors pay the cost of attendance at the event.

**Girls State**—The Montana American Legion Auxiliary sponsors the annual *Treasure Girls State*, an opportunity for 5 Polson High School juniors to participate in a week-long, government education program held at the Carroll College campus in Helena in June. Application are available from the Guidance Office in early January and due in late January. Five delegates and two alternates are selected from the pool of applicants. Local sponsors pay the cost of attendance at the event.

**JUNIORS AND SENIORS**

**United States Senate Youth Leadership Contest**—The William Randolph Hearst Foundation sponsors this contest. Ten semifinalists are selected from each state based upon their answers to a quiz testing their knowledge of current events, U.S. History and the Constitution. Two finalists are then selected from the 10 state semi-finalists, based upon a videotape of their answers to selected questions. Finalists receive an all-expenses paid week in Washington D.C. and a $2,000 scholarship. A Polson High School student was selected as a finalist and received a trip to Washington D.C. and a $2,000 scholarship in 2002. The qualifying examination is given in early October. Check with the Guidance Office for the exact time and date.
**YOUNG WOMEN**

Programs open to women and underrepresented groups:

*STEP—The Succeeding students in Engineering Program* is a support program that encourages students to succeed in earning an engineering education and become successful professionals. Students attend a *six-week summer program*, taking college preparatory classes and conducting research with faculty members who are currently doing NASA research at *Montana Tech*. Funding for this program is provided by NASA’s Earth Science Enterprise (ESE). For more information see their website: [http://www.teachearth.com/programs/STEP_careers.html](http://www.teachearth.com/programs/STEP_careers.html).

Several local scholarships open to women only:

*Lady Elks Scholarship*
Two $750 scholarships are given to female students with a ”C” or better GPA who are planning on attending a four-year college, beauty school, nursing, or vocational/technical school in Montana. Applications are available at the Guidance Office and must be turned in to the Guidance Office by—2002 deadline to be announced.

*Montana State Women’s Golf Association Scholarship*
A total of $2,000 will be awarded in up to 4 scholarships, depending on applications received. Applicant must be a *graduating senior girl who has been involved with golf*—either as a participant on a high school team, or in a junior program. The applicant does not need to be presently participating. The scholarship may be used at any institution that will further the education of the applicant beyond high school. Applications are available at the Guidance Office. The deadline for application is March 15, 2001.

*PEO Scholarships*
Chapter AI, P.E.O Sisterhood is offering three $2,000 scholarships to Polson High School senior girls who are college-bound (2) or attending a vocational school (1). Applications are available at the Guidance Office or click on PEO Scholarships. The deadline for application is April 15, 2002.

*Soroptimist International of Polson—Youth Citizenship Award*
One $500 scholarship is awarded locally to a young woman demonstrating *service, dependability, leadership and a clear sense of purpose*. Applications are available at the Guidance Office. The deadline for application is December 10, 2001.

National Scholarships open to women only include

*Elks Girl Scout Gold Award Scholarships*—Student must be a Girl Scout Gold Award winner and a high school senior. Applicants are judged on academics, activities, leadership, community involvement and pursuit of individual interests. Contact the local Girl Scout...
Council. Each council must submit its top application to GSUSA headquarters by May 1st. For more information, visit their website at http://www.girlscouts.org.

**The Society of Women Engineers** offers over 100 scholarships varying from $1,000 to $5,000 per year to women pursuing a baccalaureate or graduate degree in engineering or computer science. For specific requirements and an application, see their website at [http://www.swe.org](http://www.swe.org). The deadline for application is May 15th for entering freshmen; February 1st for continuing students (students who will be sophomores, juniors or seniors in college) and graduate students.

**Soroptimists—Violet Richardson Award**
One local young woman applicant will be selected to be entered in the $1,000 regional contest. One finalist will be chosen from among the 29 regional level winners for an additional national award. Applications are available at the Guidance Office. The deadline for application is December 1, 2001.

**STEP—Succeeding Students in Engineering Program Scholarships** are available to female and minority students enrolling in engineering programs. See their website: [http://www.teachearth.com/programs/STEP_careers.html](http://www.teachearth.com/programs/STEP_careers.html)
OPPORTUNITIES FOR AMERICAN INDIANS
& OTHER MINORITIES

College Prep/Academic Assistance

AISES (American Indian Science and Engineering Society) Club—PHS has a AISES Club which informs students of AISES opportunities and encourages American Indian students to pursue studies in science, engineering, and technology arenas. Students have the opportunity to participate in AISES College Horizons, a pre-college workshop for Native American students to be held this summer, and the AISES 2002 National Conference to be held next fall. Ms. Dupuis is the PHS AISES Club advisor. More information about AISES, the national, non-profit organization, can be found at their website: http://www.aises.org.

Talent Search—Montana Educational Talent Search (ETS) offers services to ensure that students complete high school and successfully enter college or vocational school. Talent Search is one of the TRIO programs created in 1965 and funded by the U.S. Department of Education, to provide equal opportunity for higher education to all Americans. To qualify, students should demonstrate the need for ETS services in order to consider, prepare for, and enroll in postsecondary school and be from a family where neither parent has completed a four-year college degree and/or whose income meets certain guidelines. More information and applications are available at the Guidance Office. Contact Arleen Adams at 675-4800, ext. 4991 for more information.

Upward Bound—Salish Kootenai College Upward Bound is an experiential, college preparatory, federally funded TRIO program that provides low-income, potentially first-generation college students with the motivation and academic skills necessary for success in high school and postsecondary education. The program provides a high quality, comprehensive college preparatory curriculum for eligible students willing to make a commitment to academic and leadership challenges. Students fulfill increasing scholastic and enrichment requirements as they participate in the academic year, summer residential and leadership components of the four-year program. Applications are available in the Guidance Office. Applicants may be placed on a waiting list, pending an opening. Eligible applicants who are not admitted during the school year may be invited to attend Upward Bound’s six-week summer program at Salish Kootenai College. Contact Joanne Morrow at 883-1SKC or 275-4989 for more information.

Summer Programs

Montana State University

U DOC—Is a six-week summer program at Montana State University in Bozeman. Students live on campus, previewing college life while exploring medicine and other health careers. Full scholarships covering all costs, including round trip mileage are given to all 12 participants. High school sophomores, juniors and seniors who are from an under-represented minority, economically disadvantaged, from a rural area, and/or from a family in which neither parent is a college grad are eligible to apply. Applications are available at the Guidance Office, or
download an application from their website: http://healthinfo.montana.edu/U-DOC/default.html. The deadline for application is March 15, 2002.

**AIRO**—The American Indian Research Opportunities Program at MSU-Bozeman sponsors a six-week summer Montana Apprenticeship Program (MAP) for American Indian high school juniors and seniors. MAP exposes students to a meaningful work-related experience in various scientific research laboratories. Apprentices are paid $6.50/hour for participating in this program. Applications can be obtained from the Guidance Office. The deadline for application is March 8th, 4:30 p.m. For more information see their website: http://www.montana.edu/wwwai

**Montana Tech**

STEP—The Succeeding students in Engineering Program is a support program that encourages students to succeed in earning an engineering education and become successful professionals. Students attend a six-week summer program, taking college preparatory classes and conducting research with faculty members who are currently doing NASA research at Montana Tech. Funding for this program is provided by NASA’s Earth Science Enterprise (ESE). For more information see their website: http://www.teacheart.com/programs/STEP_careers.html.

**University of Montana**

AIBL American Indian Business Leaders is a national program headquartered at The University of Montana’s School of Business Administration, it’s founding institution. AIBL is an education program designed to empower American Indian students. Programs include student and professional chapters, scholarships, an internship/career placement program, academic competitions, a leadership academy, international program and chapter small business program. For more information contact American Business Leaders (AIBL), Gallagher Business Building, Suite 366, Missoula, Montana 59812, 406-243-4879.

HCOP—Health Career Opportunity Program is open to American Indians, disadvantaged students and other minorities. Through summer enrichments courses and various academic-year services, students are introduced to the pharmacy, physical therapy and health science fields. Summer program students receive paid round-trip travel to Missoula and a daily stipend. For more information and an application, see their website: http://www.umt.edu/hcop/about.htm

MHCOP—Mental Health Careers Opportunity Program This program is similar to MCOP for students interested in Mental Health careers. Also held at the University of Montana. Interested students can check out their website: http://www.umt.edu/mhcop/main.htm

INPSYCH—Indians into Psychology—The InPsych Summer Enrichment Program at the University of Montana is a two-week honors program designed to help prepare American Indian college students to make successful application to graduate programs in Clinical Psychology. Applications are available online at http://www.umt.edu/inpsych

**University of Montana--Western**

Math-Science Upward Bound targets students who have an interest in math or science. The program at Western focuses on the outdoors as classroom, immersing student in field research projects. Students must either have a taxable family income low enough to meet the guidelines,
and/or have no parents or guardians living at home who have or will have a 4-year degree by late June when the program begins. Student’s only cost is transportation to Dillon and back. Students have the potential to earn weekly stipends to cover their personal needs. Applications are available at the Guidance Office. More information is available at the website: http://www.umwestern.edu.msub.

**University of North Dakota**

**UND Summer Institute, Indians into Medicine (In-Med)** The University of North Dakota sponsors a six-week enrichment program for students in grades 7-12 who are interested in pursuing a degree in health-related disciplines. The application deadline is March 31, 2002. More information is available at their website: http://www.med.und.edu/depts/inmed/home.htm

**College Assistance**

**Grants**

**Higher Education Grants**—These funds are meant to supplement other sources of federal funding. To be eligible you must demonstrate financial need and be an enrolled member of a BIA recognized Native American tribe. More information and applications are available from the area or agency office that serves your tribal affiliation.

**Native American Fee Waivers** are available to **American Indian students of _ degree blood or more** who enroll in one of the six schools in the Montana University System. (Other states also offer fee waivers to American Indian students; check with the institution you are planning to attend.) Students must demonstrate a minimal degree of financial need. **Fee waivers waive tuition, but do not waive all student fees.** Applications are available from the financial aid offices at each university.

**Pell Grants** are available to students demonstrating financial need. Students must complete a FAFSA, or Free Application for Federal Student Aid and show **considerable financial need.** Pell Grants range from $200.00 per year to over $3,000.00 per year, depending upon degree of financial need as determined by the FAFSA. See your counselor for more information.

**General Scholarships**

**Catching the Dream** scholarships are available to American Indian students of at least _ blood who have applied for other aid. See their website at http://www.catchingthedream.org.

**Gates Millennium Scholarships** are available to African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian Pacific American or Hispanic American graduating seniors who have maintained a minimum 3.30 GPA and will enter a college or university as a full-time, degree-seeking freshman. Students must also demonstrate significant financial need. The award is based on the cost of tuition, fees, books, and living expenses, as well as the availability of grants and other scholarships. Applications are available at the Guidance Office. The deadline for application is February 1st. For more information see their website: http://www.gmsp.org
**STEP—Succeeding Students in Engineering Program Scholarships** are available to female and minority students enrolling in engineering programs. See their website: [http://www.teachearth.com/programs/STEP_careers.html](http://www.teachearth.com/programs/STEP_careers.html)

**USA Funds Access to Education Scholarships Program** awards renewable scholarships to students with substantial financial need, with up to 50% of these scholarships targeted to students who are also either members of an ethnic-minority group or physically disabled. Applications are available at the Guidance Office or online at [http://www.usafunds.org](http://www.usafunds.org). The deadline for application is April 15, 2002.

**College-specific Scholarships and Programs**—Scholarships or programs offered by a specific college or university to students who are interested in, or will be enrolling at that particular school.

**Dartmouth Fly-In Program**—Native American seniors who are interested in attending Dartmouth may apply in early September for this program. If selected, students are flown in for a weekend visit and planned activities at Dartmouth. More information is available at the Guidance Office.

**Montana State University** offers the $1,000 renewable **Phyllis Berger Memorial Scholarship** to American Indian students with a GPA of 3.0 or better. Applications are available at the Guidance Office; deadline is March 1, 2002.

**University of Montana Native American Scholarships**—The University of Montana offers various Native American Scholarships. Most have a minimum 2.5 GPA requirement; some require a higher GPA. More information and applications are available from the Guidance Office or from the Native American Studies Office at the University of Montana. Completed applications must be in the NAS office by 5:00 p.m. March 1, 2002.

**Lewis and Clark State College**—**The Plateau Native American Trust Scholarship** at LCSC provides scholarships to Plateau Native Americans who are at least _ degree blood. The deadline for application is March 1st. Applications are available at the Guidance Office.
HELPFUL WEBSITES

American Indian College Fund
http://www.collegefund.org

American Indian Research Opportunities (AIRO)--
MAP Montana Apprenticeship Program
http://www.montana.edu/wwwai

American Indian Science and Engineering Society
http://www.aises.org

Catching the Dream
http://www.catchingthedream.org

The Gates Millennium Scholar Program
http://www.gmsp.org

Health Career Opportunities Program (UM)
http://www.umt.edu/hcop/about.htm

Indigenous People’s Education Network
http://www.skc.edu/pednet/index.html

INMED—Indians into Medicine (University of North Dakota)
http://www.med.und.edu/depts/inmed/home.htm

Institute for Higher Education Policy
http://www.ihep.com/

Mental Health Career Opportunities Program (UM)
http://www.umt.edu/mhcop/main.htm

Minority Online Information Services
http://www.sciencewise.com/molis

Office of Indian Education
http://www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/oie

Scholarships for many ethnic groups and minorities
http://www.free-4u.com/minority.htm
http://www.finaid.org/otheraid/matamind.phtml
http://www.finaid.org/otheraid/minority.phtml
STEP Succeeding Students in Engineering
Summer program at Montana Tech
http://www.teachearth.com/programs/STEP_careers.html

U-DOC Summer program at Montana State University
http://healthinfo.montana.edu/U-DOC/default.html.

United Negro College Fund
http://www.uncf.org
ECONOMICALLY OR EDUCATIONALLY DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS

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Training/Employment Programs

The Northwest Montana Human Resources Employment and Training Program provides disadvantaged In-School and Out-of School youth with activities and services to enhance their opportunities of staying in school or finding long-term employment through the program components of career awareness, job readiness, and paid work experience. The program is open to youth 14-21 who are low-income and either deficient in basic literacy skills, a school dropout, homeless, runaway, or foster child, pregnant or parenting, an offender or an individual with a disability who requires additional assistance to complete an educational program or to secure and hold employment. Please contact Linda, the Polson area representative at 883-3470, or the Kalispell office at 758-5454 for more information. (Employment and Training, PO Box 8300, Kalispell MT 59904-1300.)
**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

**Montana Youth Leadership Forum** identifies students with disabilities who have exhibited leadership skills and equips them with additional training—expanding their knowledge of the culture of disability and types of disabilities, and introducing them to adults who are living successfully with disabilities. More information is available at their website: [http://www.msubillings.edu/mtcd/mylf](http://www.msubillings.edu/mtcd/mylf).

**AmeriCorps—The Opening Doors to Community Service Project**, an AmeriCorps Disability Inclusion Services Project, is intended to increase the number of people with disabilities serving in AmeriCorps. To become a member of AmeriCorps, a person must be a United States citizen, at least 17 years of age and have a high school diploma or the equivalent (there are some exceptions). AmeriCorps provides a monthly living allowance, health insurance, a post-secondary education award, and childcare. Persons with disabilities may receive reasonable accommodations to perform job duties. For more information contact Gil Martell: [http://Gmartell@msubilliing.edu](http://Gmartell@msubilliing.edu), or see their website: [http://www.msubillings.edu/opendoors](http://www.msubillings.edu/opendoors), or the AmeriCorps website: [http://www.americorps.org](http://www.americorps.org).

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