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Statewide Education Professionals to Gather at MCAN Conference April 8-10

(HELENA) Education professionals from K-12 and higher education will gather in Helena April 8-10 to network, get educational updates, and share college access and success best practices at the fourth annual Montana College Access Network (MCAN) Conference.

New to the conference this year is a partnership with MCAN and the Montana Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (MASFAA) as well as the Montana TRiO programs.

“We are so thankful for the opportunity to collaborate with these partners to provide the most useful information possible to the greatest number of education professionals,” said Michelle Christianson, conference chair. “Our conference theme this year is “Agents of Change,” and we truly believe the program we have assembled will encourage our attendees to be the agents of change Montana students need to be successful in college.”

Keynote speakers include Jonathan Brennan, PhD, EdD, a researcher in best practices in student success; Todd Garrison, executive director for ChildWise; and Angela McLean, Montana’s lieutenant governor and a long-time educator.

In addition, breakout session topics range from communicating with 21st Century students; to preparing American Indian students for college; to dual enrollment. Participants also will have plenty of opportunities to network with their colleagues.

All sessions will take place at the Red Lion Colonial Hotel.

MCAN is a collaborative group of stakeholders across the state who are involved in issues of college access and success. Network member organizations include the Montana Department of Labor and Industry, Office of Public Instruction, GEAR UP, Montana ASPIRE, Montana Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (MASFAA), Montana School Counselor Association (MSCA), Montana Postsecondary Education Opportunities Council (MPSEOC), Student Assistance Foundation, Montana Campus Compact, TRiO Student Support Services at the University of Montana, Student Opportunity Services/TRiO at Montana State University – Billings, Montana Tech Institute for Educational Opportunities.

For more information about the conference, visit <http://www.mtcollegeaccess.org/annual-conference/>, or contact Melissa Huntington at (406) 495-7672 or mhuntington@safmt.org.