Agenda MACSS Spring Conference 2026
Sleep Inn and Suites / 1006 S Haynes Ave
Miles City, MT
April 13th - 16th

Monday, April 13th

5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. No Host Dinner at Uncle Mike's BBQ and Grill / 3105 Steel St.
8:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. E-Board Meeting at the Sleep Inn and Suites

Tuesday, April 14th

Breakfast (Complimentary if you are staying at the Sleep Inn / You may bring your breakfast into the meeting.)

7:45 a.m. Set up for Silent Auction

8:30 a.m. Welcome from Custer County Commissioners

8:45 a.m. Roll Call

9:00 a.m. Nicole Thuotte
Infinite Campus and Data collection
Will stay through lunch to answer questions

10:15 a.m. Rob Watson
The State of Public Education in Montana

11:45 a.m. Lunch at the Hotel (Food from Jimmy John's) / Sponsored by Cariina, Inc

Information Table with Kristi Steinberg and Megan Bilant on distance-based licensure programs at UM that allow students to stay in their home Communities

12:45 p.m. Andrea Mohammadi
Out of District Attendance and Tuition

2:15 p.m. Break

2:30 p.m. J.P. Milbury
School Partnerships Manager Cariina, Inc.
Rethinking Communication and Collaboration Across Rural School Districts

3:30 p.m. Business Meeting

4:30 p.m. On your own

6:00 p.m. Dinner at Tilt Würks / 420 Pacific Ave
Passing of the Torch / Swearing in of officers

Wednesday, April 15th

Breakfast (Complimentary if you are staying at the Sleep Inn / You can bring your breakfast into the meeting.)

8:00 a.m. **Christina Henderson** is Executive Director of the **Montana High Tech Business Alliance and the Montana Jobs Network**, where she works to strengthen Montana's workforce by connecting students, educators, and employers. Her work focuses on helping communities understand emerging career opportunities, the skills employers need, and how to build stronger pathways into high-paying, in-demand jobs.

At this session, Christina will share insights from the Eastern Montana Career Summit and highlight practical ways school districts can better align with industry, expand career awareness, and support student success across a range of career pathways.

8:30 a.m. Autumn Warren and Shelley Turner
Levy-ing the Playing Field: A New Era for County School Funding

Time allowing continue with Business meeting

10:30 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m. John Doran Chief Strategy Officer
Bridged Health Alliance
"A New Era of Health Insurance"
Q and A

11:45 a.m. Break / Travel to MCC / 2715 Dickinson St. (Shuttle Bus will be available)

12:00 p.m. Working Lunch at Miles City Community College
Ron Slinger President of MCC
"Building Opportunities for your Students and Schools"
Opportunity Realized Program

Tour of the College

1:30 p.m. Break Return to Sleep Inn and Suites

1: 45 p.m. Dr. Jayne Downey and Dr. Nick Lux
Update on the work at MSU's Center for Research on Rural Education.
Share ways the Center is available to serve the County Supts.
Demonstration of a new tool being developed for recruiting teachers.

Wednesday, April 15th - Continued

2:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Business meeting Finish up if Needed

Discussion Insurance / Share what your schools are Doing. What's working? Needs not being met.

Field Newbie Questions

Information Table with Kristi Steinberg and Megan Bilant on distance-based licensure programs at UM that allow students to stay in their home communities. (They will have a Table)

4:30 p.m. On your own

Rural Teacher of the Year Banquet
Miles City Town & Country Club / S 4th St & Eagle Ave

6:00 Happy Hour

6:30 Dinner

Speakers

Dr. Jayne Downey - MSU Center for Research and Rural Education

Larry Crowder - Montana Rural Education Association

Craig Barringer - Deputy Superintendent Montana Office of Public Instruction

Carolyn Hall - MSSA

Vicki Proctor - Hill County Superintendent of Schools

Thursday, April 16th

7:30 a.m. Pick up Silent Auction winnings

Breakfast (Complimentary if you are staying at the Sleep Inn)

8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Ellery Bresler
Accreditation Zoom

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. *Larry Crowder*
Montana Rural Education Association
Montana Cooperative Services

Thank you to all our presenters and attendees.

Drive Safely!