



Broader Impacts Activities

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UM BRIDGES fellows are required to participate in program outreach efforts that bring food-energy-water related STEM education and experiences to underrepresented and external groups. Fellows will volunteer a minimum of 4 hours towards this goal during their traineeship.

Fellows may work collaboratively with one another in completing this requirement.

At the completion of the activity, fellows should send a very brief report on their activity. It should be in the format of a web or blog story (and will be posted on UM BRIDGES' website). It should include a horizontal photo of the activity or something related to the activity, a title of the activity, a description of the activity, and information on how it relates to the nexus and/or benefits STEM education and experiences for underrepresented and external groups. If possible, the report should include a quote from a beneficiary – either from the public or the host organization. This should be sent electronically to the Program Coordinator.

The following list provides ideas for broader impact activities. Fellows are welcome to propose alternative activities. Fellows should coordinate with and receive prior approval from the Program Coordinator.

- SpectrUM is a hands-on children's science museum in Missoula that serves over 50,000 people annually. Trainees may serve as educators by leading museum visitors in activities related to their research. Trainees may also contribute to spectrUM's Science Learning Tent at the Arlee Celebration – the annual powwow of the Indian Flathead Reservation. Trainees alternatively may design, create, and display a FEW-related display for placement at SpectrUM's main or one of its satellite locations.
- Trainees may volunteer with We are Montana in the Classroom – a UM initiative that places faculty and graduate students in K-12 classrooms to inspire STEM education. Trainees may lead students in educational activities that are closely related to their research and serve as career role models on Montana's seven American Indian reservations. Trainees could receive training based on the Role Models Matter Curriculum – a NSF-supported program that works to increase girls' STEM participation.
- A partnership between the Missoula Food Bank, spectrUM, and the Missoula Public Library was created to integrate STEM literacy into existing free meal programs for low-income children. Trainees may provide perspective on where food, water, and energy come from which will be incorporated into activities designed to educate students benefitting from free meal programs.
- Trainees may provide a FEW-related guest lecture at a tribal college if invited by the college through a previously established relationship between the college and their advisor.
- Trainees may work with the UM Farm to College program, or the UM Food Services program, to create a display regarding FEW issues related to food and sustainability.
- Trainees may create a FEW-related lesson plan for posting on the BRIDGES website. Trainees would create the lesson-plan and pilot the plan within an actual classroom prior to posting.