Growth and diversity define 2015. We expanded our training, employment, healthy living and aging-related activities, and grew our program serving Montana American Indians. Activities, revenues and staff grew more than 5% from 2014. A significant outcome of this growth has been expanded relationships with state, national and international colleagues with similar interests.

Strong collaborative relationships help us accomplish our consumer-driven mission: “improving the skills, abilities, and quality of life of people with disabilities in rural communities, including their families and those who serve and support them.” The numbers we share are just part of the story. The real story is how our nationally recognized faculty, staff and students are making a positive difference in individual lives across Montana and beyond.

Please visit our website or Facebook page to learn more.

Marty E. Blair, PhD
Executive Director

2,208 people reached
Employment issues, health related topics, transportation, assistive technology, housing and more

federal $
Every $1 of core federal funds leveraged an additional $6 for research, training and services

37 active projects
21 active research projects
• Funding support grew by 5%

80 products developed
• distance learning modules
• conference presentations
• newsletters
• books, publications
• reports
• pamphlets
• brochures
• fact sheets

335 hours of technical assistance
830 people served
673 continuing education
157 specialized services
31 professional presentations
Since 1978, the University of Montana Rural Institute for Inclusive Communities has worked to improve the skills, abilities, and quality of life of people with disabilities in rural communities, including their families and those who serve and support them.

**What we do**

Rural Institute initiatives focus on promoting independence, productivity, integration and community inclusion in rural and frontier communities.

**How we do it**

1. Provide training to personnel who serve and educate individuals with disabilities and their families.
2. Conduct research and evaluation to assist people with disabilities to lead healthy, productive lives in their communities.
3. Offer community supports and services, including training and technical assistance.
4. Disseminate information to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities and their families living in rural areas.
5. Leverage current funding sources by developing and submitting grant and contract applications, and recovering costs associated with the delivery of services.

**In all we do**

We involve stakeholders as advisors so activities are consumer-responsive, family-focused, and sensitive to the cultural heritage and values of people with disabilities and their families.

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**A Year In Review - July 2014 to June 2015**

- Number of people reached: **2,208**
- Number of professionals participating in continuing education programs: **673**
- Number of people who received specialized services: **157**
- Every $1 of core federal funds leveraged an additional $6 for research, training and services.
- Number of trainees in 2015: **32**
- Trainees currently in disability leadership roles (2010 cohort): **12**
- Number of active projects: **37**
- Active research projects: **21**
- Funding support grew by 5%
- Hours of technical assistance: **335**
- Number of professional presentations: **31**

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