

August 21, 2009

TO: Interested Transition Partners
FROM: Ellen Condon, Rural Institute Transition Projects Director
Kim Brown, Rural Institute Transition Projects Coordinator
SUBJECT: MT-TIRC Advisory Board

As you may be aware, the University of Montana Rural Institute was awarded a three-year grant from the Administration on Developmental Disabilities to establish the Montana Transition Training, Information and Resource Center (MT-TIRC). The MT-TIRC mission is to provide access to timely, high quality transition information, training and resources for young people with developmental disabilities, their families, teachers, professionals, and other community members.

MT-TIRC activities are shaped and guided by an advisory board comprised of Montanans from the following groups: young people (ages 13-30) with developmental disabilities; parents/family members of an individual with a developmental disability; the Developmental Disabilities Program; Disability Rights Montana; the Governor's Transition Task Force; the Office of Public Instruction; Parents, Let's Unite for Kids; the Child Development Center; the Montana Council on Developmental Disabilities; ADAPT/People First; MonTECH; the Montana Youth Leadership Forum, schools; and an adult agency (for example, a community rehabilitation provider). To encourage young people with a more significant impact of disability to participate, they may have a parent or other trusted support person accompany them to meetings.

The advisory board helps MT-TIRC staff determine necessary and appropriate activities, establish priorities, develop work plans, craft products, deliver training, and conduct evaluation activities. Term lengths run for 12 months. Meetings are held quarterly, with at least two of the meetings taking place in Missoula. (Other meetings may be held via conference call and/or using the Internet.) Generally, the meetings last from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM to allow for travel time. In addition, board members may be asked to serve on work groups or task forces, which could require additional meetings by conference call.

Travel reimbursement is available for board members. Stipends are offered to young people with disabilities and family members if their time to attend meetings is not compensated through a job. The Rural Institute is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to allow individuals to fully participate in the advisory board activities.

If you are interested in being considered for a seat on the board, please complete the short application form we have enclosed with this invitation and return it to:

Kim Brown
UM Rural Institute
634 Eddy, CHC 009
Missoula, MT 59812

Or email it as an attachment to Kim at:
brown@ruralinstitute.umt.edu

Or fax it to Kim's attention at:
(406) 243-4730

Please consider applying to help craft the work of this wonderful transition resource for Montana youth with disabilities, and please share this invitation and application form with anyone you think might be interested.

If you have any questions, please contact Kim at (406) 243-4852 or via email at brown@ruralinstitute.umt.edu or Ellen at (406) 243-4134 or via email at condon@ruralinstitute.umt.edu. Our toll-free number is (800) 732-0323.

Thank you for your time and dedication to a successful transition to adulthood for **all** Montana young people!