AHEAD of the Northern Rockies
Report on MCAN Strategic Planning Meeting
August 19, 2017

In July 2017, AHEAD NR Executive Board announced partnership with the Montana College Access Network (MCAN). MCAN recently invited Mika Watanabe, President, to participate in its strategic planning meeting that took place on August 16, 2017 at the Helena College.

“I was impressed by efficiency of MCAN’s planning meeting,” said Watanabe. “Listening to MCAN’s focus and goals for 2017-2020 has reassured me that AHEAD NR’s involvement in MCAN is the right direction for us.”

MCAN is a 501c3 non-profit organization that thrives to advance the goals of all Montanans achieving their careers through higher education. MCAN is interested in the success in students with disabilities in higher education.

One of MCAN’s goals is to work collectively to advance Montana’s Goal 2025 set by the Office of the Governor, Steve Bullock. MCAN will aim to provide college access training and resources for school counselors and teachers to increase the number of adults pursuing postsecondary degrees and certificates. During the planning meeting, Watanabe emphasized that AHEAD NR’s resourcefulness for transition guide for high school students with disabilities and their school counselors.

MCAN’s membership consists of various representatives from the Montana Department of Labor and Industry, the Office of Public Instruction, TRiO, Financial Aid officers, recruitment personnel, and school counselors throughout Montana. AHEAD NR will plan to join the MCAN’s annual conference in spring 2018 to provide members of AHEAD NR with training and networking opportunities that are beyond disability services.

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