ACTE REGION V
Innovative Career and Technical Education Program

FEATURES OF THE PROGRAM

Narrative must not exceed one typewritten page. Please organize the narrative under the following major headings: (1) Description of the Program, (2) Purpose of the Program, (3) Innovative Features of the Program, and (4) Successes and/or Achievements of the Program.

1. Description of the Program
Missoula County Public Schools Agriculture Center is located on a 100-acre working farm in the Missoula Valley of Montana. The program serves all three high schools in the county with a combined population of nearly 4500 students. The MCPS Ag Center is staffed by 4 Agriculture teachers and includes a land lab consisting of hay, pasture, feed crops, gardens and educational buildings. The MCPS Ag Center is home to a herd of cows, sheep, pigs, chickens, turkeys and an occasional goose that is owned by both the school and individual students. By owning livestock on the farm students learn to become entrepreneurs through Supervised Agricultural Experience projects. The Ag Center also includes a greenhouse, metals shop, woodworking shop, animal science lab, and several barns and outbuildings. After over 3 years of work the Ag Center is looking forward to the completion of the meat processing facility. The meat processing facility will open in the spring of 2019 and will be the most state of the art meat processing facility in the Pacific Northwest. The processing facility will be fully state inspected which will allow the program to be the first complete farm to table high school experience in the nation with a major goal to produce all the ground beef for the Missoula County School District lunch program.

2. Purpose of the Program
MCPS Agriculture Education’s purpose is to develop an appreciation for the agriculture industry, develop leaders and learners, develop workplace skills, and increase the economic stability of future generations through job training and career opportunities. Introducing students to the importance of the agriculture industry and allowing them to explore the vast array of agricultural occupations through hands-on experience is an essential goal of the program.

3. Innovative Features of the Program
Three innovative features of the program include:

- The meat processing facility; Ultimately, the goal is to have a branded series of products that are sold from the meat lab as well as to provide all the ground beef used in the Missoula County Public Schools lunch program.
- Student summer employment and Supervised Agriculture Experiences
- Veterinary certification programs that allow students who complete the Vet Certification course and internships to be eligible to take a certification exam to become an industry recognized Certified Veterinary Assistant.

4. Successes or Achievements of the Program
Particular achievements to highlight for the program include:
First Agriculture Program in the country to have both a school farm and state inspected meat processing facility. 2015 MAAE - Program of the Year. 2015 NAAE - Teacher of the Year. 2015 Montana ACTE - Teacher of the Year. 2014 NAAE - Outstanding Young Teacher. 2014 Montana ACTE - New Teacher of the Year. 37 State Winning FFA Teams over the past 15 years. Student SAE projects generated $83,000 in economic impact during the 2017-2018 school year. Students invested 10,700 hours in SAE projects during the 2017-2018 school year.