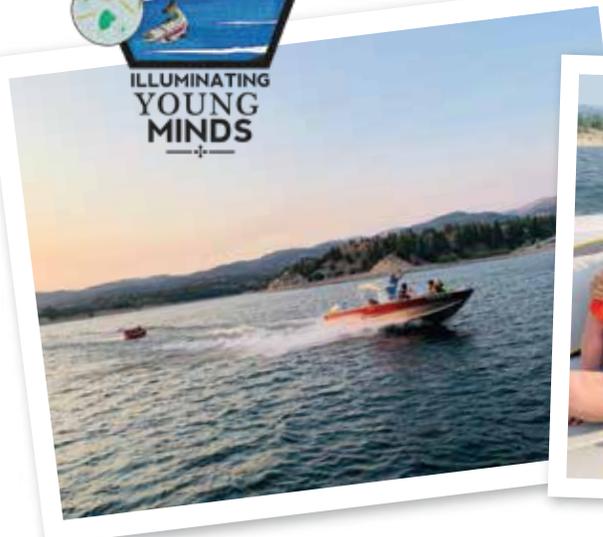


MONTANA LEARNING CENTER

at Canyon Ferry Lake

ILLUMINATING
YOUNG
MINDS



Dear Friend,

What an amazing year 2021 has been for Montana Learning Center at Canyon Ferry Lake!

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to successfully overcome challenges posed by COVID-19 and host a record-breaking 530 campers this summer! That's 200 more campers than our previous record, set in 2020! We also expanded our geology lab, updated our rock cutting and polishing equipment, added a commercial oven in our kitchen and held our first-ever adult summer science camp.

We are currently developing our curriculum for the 2022 camp season, and it looks to be another great year. We hope to offer more off-site camps in 2022, but that will depend on our ability to obtain additional transportation for campers and staff. We're also hoping to remodel the kitchen over the next few summers, so we can continue providing the best camp food around!

As we continue to grow and develop new programs, we cannot thank you enough for your vital support. Many of our alumni credit the Learning Center for their decision to pursue careers in the sciences. It's no exaggeration to say that your donations forever impact our campers' lives.

In addition to dramatically expanding our summer camps in 2021, we ramped up our teacher training curriculum to reach significantly more K-12 teachers and students than ever before. We moved much of our teacher training online, providing more content to a larger audience, including those outside of Montana, and often at no cost to teachers.

Our programs for teachers include **online standards training** for Montana K-12 science teachers, to help them implement dynamic science learning in the classroom. We also provide **remote telescope training** for high school teachers in the intermountain region, during which they learn how to operate our New Mexico-based telescope and how to use it to conduct meaningful astronomical research with their students. In addition, the Learning Center hosts a two-day, on-site training for Montana K-12 teachers, during which we demonstrate ways to incorporate **drone, robotic and coding projects** based on NASA's annual Student Robotics Challenge into classroom curriculums and provide participants with the equipment needed for these projects.





January 1, 2021 marked the start of our five-year, \$450,000 grant from the Northwest Earth and Space Sciences Pathway program. This grant supports our work to connect Montana students and teachers with cutting-edge NASA science and improve students' and teachers' STEM skills. In addition to funding our teacher training programs, the grant allows us to offer – in partnership with the University of Washington (UW) and the Museum of Flight – the Western Aerospace Scholars program in Montana and also to expand our outreach and engagement efforts through Montana's public libraries, including developing and disseminating kits that library patrons can borrow to engage in scientific activities and research.

In May of 2021, the Montana Department of Commerce awarded us a \$67,000 grant that will allow us to enhance our contribution to the state's growing astrotourism industry. The Learning Center's campus is the home of the largest public access observatory in Montana and a designated Dark Sky Destination, making it an ideal resource for astrotourism in Montana. With the new funds, we will replace our existing robotic telescope with a wide-field astrograph, giving us broader, more detailed, in-color images of the night sky. This and other state-of-the-art improvements to our observatories will increase the Learning Center's ability to offer students, teachers and members of the public the opportunity to make a wide range of astronomical observations.



As a Montana Learning Center donor, you know the importance of providing young people with unique, hands-on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programs. Keeping these programs affordable and relevant to the ever-changing world of science is more important now than ever. **But we can't do it without you.**

Please consider renewing your support of the Learning Center by mailing us a check in the enclosed envelope or making a donation through our website, www.montanalearning.org. You can have even more of an impact – and help secure the future of a vital resource for Montana's students and teachers – through recurring gifts or planned gifts (such as a bequest in your will or trust). Please contact me by phone or email if you would like to further discuss these options.

Thanks to friends like you, our exceptional programs and outreach will continue to have a broad and lasting impact on our students as they realize the possibilities their futures can hold.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ryan Hannahoe'.

Ryan Hannahoe
Executive Director

