Thursday, March 10  

Great Falls Development Authority organized a pre-conference Manufacturing Tour. Participants visited Loenbro, a pipeline and industry support services company and ADF, a fabrication plant, assembly yard, and paint shop.

Montana Ambassador Orientation  

Experienced Montana Ambassadors as well as newcomers to the group listened to a review about the organization’s origins, structural framework, goals, and individual roles as a Montana Ambassador. Presenters were Outgoing President Tom McGree and Incoming President Brent Campbell.  

Orientation Presentation

Thirty-Two Years of Service: Montana Ambassador Engage! Report  

During the 2015 conference, Montana Ambassadors were challenged to Engage! During the 2015 conference, Montana Ambassadors were challenged to Engage! Activities Report  

Election of Officers and Directors  

Guest Special Report and Announcement: Arne Siegel – AWIM/STEM announced Montana will be the first state in the nation to offer Pre-K STEM curriculum to Montana students. To date, Montana Ambassadors have helped over 200 schools receive STEM kits for their classrooms. If you would like to support the Pre-K program please contact Arne.

Welcome and Kickoff Lunch  

Following a welcome by Brett Doney, Great Falls Development Authority, and Mayor Bob Kelly, Outgoing President Tom McGree opened the conference with the Main Street Project Update.

Main Street Montana Project  

Lt. Governor Mike Cooney, Director Meg O’Leary, Commissioner Pam Bucy, and Director John Rogers shared highlights and updates of the Key Industry Network (KIN) committees. Ambassadors learned of several opportunities for the Montana Ambassadors to strengthen the Main Street Montana Project efforts.  

http://mainstreetmontanaproject.com/
**Montana Ambassador 2015 Award Winners and Presentations**

The 2015 Award Winners were simply exceptional. Photos and Video provided by Thomas Kurdy of Ndigena

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award Category</th>
<th>Award Recipient</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Montana Ambassador of the Year</td>
<td>Brent Campbell, President/CEO, WGM Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outreach Montana Ambassador</td>
<td>Russ Fletcher, MATR with wife Alexandra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTA Plenipotentiary</td>
<td>Rick Edwards, NorthWestern Energy with wife Laurie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legislator of the Year</td>
<td>Sen. Ed Buttrey, Medicaid Expansion Reform</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legislators of the Year</td>
<td>Rep. Bryce Bennet, Campaign Finance Reform</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legislators of the Year</td>
<td>Rep. Sen Chas Vincent, Flathead Water Compact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTA Mike Malone Educator of the Year</td>
<td>Susan Wolff, CEO/Dean, Great Falls College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montana Ambassador Business of the Year</td>
<td>Sunburst Sensors Jim Beck and Mike DeGrandpre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTA Entrepreneur of the Year</td>
<td>Tyann Hermes ~ Kootenai Drug and True Value and Shakti Soul Yoga and Movement</td>
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**Awards Social with Governor Bullock**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendees</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joe Willauer and Alistair Stewart</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rae Lynn Hays, Tracy McIntyre, Liz Ching</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leslie Messer and Craig Herbert</td>
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Awards Dinner ~ Keynote Address Governor Steve Bullock
MT Ambassador Award Winners, attendees and guests enjoyed fine dining and a special message from Governor Bullock.

Friday, March 11

WORKING BETTER TOGETHER FOR MONTANA

Following a networking breakfast and messages from Montana’s Congressional Delegation, Moderator Andy Gordon introduced a panel that demonstrated Working Better Together for Montana. Each of the featured panelists shared their story then Andy asked questions so the audience could learn of key milestones that brought success to the business or project.

Moderator Andy Gordon with panelists Eric Fulton, TSI; Pat Schneider, AWIM; and Ryan Hannahoe, MT Learning Center.

Dave Yakos, Salient Technologies, wowed the audience with a message that inspired creativity, invention, and success. Recently selected by Origins Magazine’s top 45 creatives, David shared his story of vision and consumer product design – everything from valves to NASA to dog toys.

Formed in 1998, Salient offers product development, industrial design, marketing renderings and animations, and engineering drawings for manufacturing.

In a nutshell, David loves to help turn ideas into products. Products Enjoy the Video
Working Better Together for Montana as Montana Ambassadors

Last but by no means least, facilitators Tracy McIntyre and Rae Lynn Hays guided the Montana Ambassador discussion groups to put action items with Strategic Plan goals and objectives. Of utmost importance is the goal to re-energize Montana Ambassador Chapters. Each Chapter is to meet four times per year. Individual members were encouraged to simply do the work of an Ambassador: keep your eyes and ears open for opportunities and make connections to bring about success.

Door Prizes, Evaluations, and Wrap Up: Cyndi Johnson was the winner of the hand-painted glasses from Randy McIntyre and some delicious refreshments from Headframe Spirits.

Thanks to our outstanding 2016 Montana Ambassador Conference Committee: Andy Gordon, Chair; Jeff Laverdiere, Tom McGree, Pat Schneider, Brent Campbell, Brett Doney, Andy Shirtliff, and Tracy McIntyre.
This conference was made possible thanks to our generous sponsors:

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