It has been an amazing four years watching the current graduating senior class go from unsure and unprepared freshman to young adults who are ready to take on the world. The “Class of 2011” has a variety of career goals such as; veterinarian technician, nursing, business, commercial drawing, military, welding, pilot license, and working within the justice system. The Navigation 101 advisory program and GEAR UP have been an intricate part of helping these students along the way to achieve their goals. GEAR UP has given students opportunities to visit college campuses all across the state while exposing them to a wide variety of careers through the annual career fair and special events. I am truly proud of these students as they make their final preparations for their first year after high school.

They have been busy filling out applications for college, completing financial aid forms and working on scholarship applications. 100% of the senior class has made post secondary application to a two-year, four-year college, trade school, military, or apprenticeship. 100% of the students that have applied to these five areas have been accepted! This is exciting as our GEAR UP goal is to have 100% application for this year’s senior class. These students have finished their FAFSAs (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and are in the process of finishing up scholarship applications. I personally want to say that I am very proud of these students and hope that everyone will follow their plan in the fall. Good Luck and Congratulations Class of 2011!

Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Griffin accompanied 8 students on a two day overnight college visit to three Montana higher schools of education and one local visitor attraction. The colleges were The University of Montana in Missoula, University of Montana Western in Dillon, and Montana Tech in Butte. In addition the group went to The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Wildlife Visitor Center in Missoula which features wildlife habitat conservation, a collection of mounted elk displays, a wildlife gallery and wildlife films.

Experience One is a more practical way to learn according to The University of Western Montana. Experience One or X1 for short is an innovative approach to learning in which students take only one class at a time. Working closely with their professor and classmates, they concentrate on a single subject area then move on to the next course. During a semester, Montana Western students take one class at a time, three hours each day for 18 days.

In between they enjoy a four-day break to relax and recharge. Then move on to the next class. They earn the same amount of credits as a traditional multi-class system. The University of Montana Western is the only public college in the country to offer a block scheduling program.

(taken from college flyer about X1 and http://x1.umwestern.edu/)
Oroville students visited Montana Tech on April 29th and participated in Tech Days designed for prospective students who are invited to visit the campus to learn more about Montana Tech. The day is filled with fun, educational experiences. The group made and raced duck tape boats and attended academic sessions to learn more about the different degree programs that Montana Tech offers. Oroville students also went on a tour of the underground mines at the World Museum of Mining.

Oroville students Chris Curdie, Boone McKinney, Justice Olson, and J.D. King, learning about the block classes they offer at The University of Montana Western located in Dillon, MT

Quote from President of the University Royce C. Engstrom “The University of Montana is an affiliation of four institutions: the flagship campus in Missoula, The University of Montana Western located in Dillon, Montana Tech of The University of Montana in Butte, and The University of Montana-Helena College of Technology. Each has its own emphasis, character, and learning environment. Collectively, these institutions provide outstanding education, scholarship, and service. We pride ourselves on serving our community—from the Rockies to the world!”

From: http://www.umt.edu/home/administration/

Ali Fulmer, Mrs. Griffin, Chad Tibbs, and Kat Lidstrand learning about courses offered and admission requirements at The University of Montana Western
Student Support Services
Washington TRIO Expansion Program

The Federal TRIO Programs (TRIO) are Federal outreach and student services programs designed to identify and provide services for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds.

If You Are…
A First Generation College Student? (neither parent has a bachelor’s degree) or,
A Disabled student? (Documented with Central Washington University)
A Low income student?

Be part of the “Get the Key” Learning Community

The heart of the “Get the Key” program is the opportunity to participate in shared courses designed to build community among students and between students and their professors. These “Key” courses which fulfill general education requirements for graduation, are enriched with opportunities for group study, field trips, and out-of-class interaction with faculty/staff. Some “Key” courses are linked with study skills courses designed to help students enhance their learning strategies, motivation, and critical thinking skills.

For additional information and application procedures go to your college home page and search for TRIO.

Field Trip to CWU
Science, Technology, Engineering & Math

Three Oroville, 10 Bridgeport, and 9 Brewster students visited Central Washington University Campus April 15, for an overnight field trip.

The students met with their Bridges Mentors and then attended a university level class on volcanoes. They then finished the day with ice cream with various “volcanic eruptions” toppings.

On Saturday the students were at The Chimpanzee and Human Communication Institute (CHCI) which provides sanctuary for three chimpanzees - Loulis, Tatu, and Dar.

At CWU the CHCI is for humane research on the communication and behavior of the chimpanzees in their care, as well as research that furthers both the care of captive chimpanzees and conservation efforts to save chimpanzees from extinction by serving as a resource for the students of Central Washington University, its faculty, and visiting scientists.

Next the students went to a session called College 101 where college students spoke about different topics on going to college, including filling out the FAFSA, writing personal statements and applying for scholarships. Before leaving students toured the campus and ate lunch in the cafeteria. The students enjoyed the all-you-can-eat buffet that CWU students choose from every day.
Yr On June 3rd come join GEAR UP and Dollars for Scholars for a night of celebration. The night will start with a celebration dinner at 6 pm. The celebration dinner is for achieving 100% on applications to post secondary options.

At 7 p.m. Dollar for Scholars awards night will begin. This is a great opportunity for parents to congratulate students for achieving this goal.

At The University of Montana Western located in Dillon
From left to right Chad Tibbs, Mrs. Miller, Kat Lidstrand, Boone McKinney, Ali Fulmer, Jessica Hutsell, Justice Olson, J.D. King, Chris Curdie