



## ACTIVITIES IN MONTANA

### The Program

Personnel from the Montana High School Association staff are trained, along with other school personnel, to conduct educational workshops on leadership, mentoring, mental health, hazing/bullying tobacco, alcohol and other drug use, as well as the promotion of good citizenship/sporting. Workshops are conducted to reach Montana coaches, students, school administrators and activity supervisors so that they are prepared to go back to their schools and work directly with students and parents. A major component of the workshops is the implementation of mentoring programs whereby high school students will interact with middle and elementary school students regarding substance use issues as well as citizenship/sporting behavior issues. A library of publications and video materials, a speakers' bureau, and other citizenship information has been developed and is maintained by the Montana High School Association, for use across the state.

AIM HIGHER is not planned as simply a one-time project. The program will be an ongoing one in Montana.

### Students involved in extracurricular activities

Students involved in school activities, like athletics, speech and drama, music and others, are often the leaders in the schools. Peer pressure is important and when students have problems, they turn to other students. By reaching high school students involved in extracurricular activities there is a better chance to reach more students.

By involving coaches and other activity supervisors as well as parents in AIM HIGHER, the people who often have a unique positive relationship with students will be involved. Coaches, students and parents will form a strong triangle of support to attack the problems of poor sporting behavior.

### The Role of the School

AIM Higher is designed to supplement any other school programs in Montana schools. The Montana High School Association believes in Montana youth and is concerned with youth developing healthy lifestyles which is obtained by making good choices, being a leader in their school and community, displaying positive sportsmanship and having quality mental health.

### Promotion of Citizenship, Leadership and Positive Sporting Behavior

The major objectives of this component of AIM Higher are to promote citizenship, leadership and positive sporting behavior and to bring an awareness of the problems caused by lack of good behavior in this area. The other major objective is to encourage students to consider taking leadership positions on sporting issues and to be active in their schools in this arena. The two units the workshop will focus on are: respect and positive values, and positive sporting behavior and the importance of perspective.

### AIM HIGHER AWARD

This award was initiated in 1995 by the MHSA Executive Board and is presented annually to one school in recognition of their support for the AIM Higher program and its ideals.

- 1995 Sidney High School
- 1996 Butte High School
- 1997 Broadwater High School (Townsend)
- 1998 Helena High School/Capital High School
- 1999 Glasgow High School
- 2000 Sweet Grass County High School (Big Timber)

- 2001 Dawson County High School (Glendive)
- 2002 Scobey High School
- 2003 C.M. Russell High School (Great Falls)
- 2004 Cut Bank High School
- 2005 Custer County High School (Miles City)
- 2006 Shelby High School
- 2007 Power High School
- 2008 Missoula Sentinel High School
- 2009 Wibaux County High School
- 2010 Choteau High School
- 2011 Sidney High School
- 2012 Butte High School
- 2013 Loyola Sacred Heart High School (Missoula)
- 2014 Darby High School
- 2015 Powell County High School (Deer Lodge)
- 2016 Laurel High School
- 2017 Broadwater High School (Townsend)
- 2018 Butte Central High School
- 2019 Joliet High School
- 2020 Great Falls High School
- 2021 [no award presented]
- 2022 [no award presented]
- 2023 Glacier High School (Kalispell)
- 2024 Columbia Falls High School
- Jefferson High School (Boulder)
- 2025 Whitehall High School**

### AIM HIGHER CONTRIBUTOR AWARD

In the 2009-10 school year the MHSA Executive Board instituted a recognition of individuals who have made extraordinary efforts in expanding the AIM Higher Program. The AIM Higher Contributor Award is presented to individuals for notable support and promotion of this student-based leadership program.

- 2010 Bruce Clausen, Administrator – Dawson County High School (Glendive)
- Jill Flynn, Facilitator – Broadwater High School (Townsend)
- Richy Powell, Facilitator – Dawson County High School (Glendive)
- 2011 Kip Ryan, Facilitator – Sweet Grass County High School (Big Timber)
- 2012 Connie Wittak, Facilitator – Scobey High School
- 2013 Randy Gramm, Facilitator – Choteau High School
- 2014 [no award presented]
- 2015 Randy Shipman – Beaverhead County High School (Dillon)
- 2016 [no award presented]
- 2017 [no award presented]
- 2018 [no award presented]
- 2019 Sergeant First Class Todd Carver – Montana Army National Guard
- 2020 Brian Michelotti, Associate Director – MHSA
- 2021 [no award presented]
- 2022 [no award presented]
- 2023 [no award presented]
- 2024 [no award presented]
- 2025 Joe Studiner and Cathy Cullen-Kuhr – Erck Hotels and Hampton Inn**