

Special Recognition Award: SciNation

SciNation - spectrUM's advisory committee on the Flathead Reservation – was formed in 2013, and has played a powerful role in building a homegrown, Native STEM Workforce and inspiring all K-12 learners. The SciNation Advisory Committee, is committed to empowering and inspiring the Flathead Indian Reservation and its youth about science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), higher education, and STEM careers. Together, they work to foster passion for STEM learning through culturally appropriate, community-created programming with local and native role models and hands-on experiences. Through year-round programming both in school and in the community, they foster a vibrant STEM learning ecosystem to ignite students' excitement about learning and build a ladder for K-12 students into tomorrow's college classrooms and STEM careers that reflect the real workforce needs and priorities of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

SciNation and the University of Montana spectrUM Discovery Area collectively do powerful work to ensure that American Indian children on the Flathead Reservation have access to Native STEM role models and culturally responsive STEM learning experiences. They do this towards an end goal of closing opportunity and achievement gaps.

In their collective efforts to inspire the next generation on the Flathead Reservation, Whisper Camel-Means and Stephanie Gillin (CSK Natural Resources), LeeAnna Muzquiz (CSKTribal Health), Bill Swaney (CSK Tribal Education) Carey Swanberg (Ronan School District, retired), Cindi Laukes (University of Montana), Holly Truitt and Jessie Herbert (UM spectrUM Discovery Area) exemplify a commitment to advancing the sovereignty of tribal nations through excellence in education.