



# WOMEN'S WIRE

*Women's Foundation of Montana eNewsletter*

December 2019

## From Jen's Desk

As we wrap up the decade we are celebrating 20 years of building a brighter future for Montana women and girls. Thanks to your generosity, partnership, and support, we've moved the needle on women's economic opportunity in Montana in the past 20 years and helped more Montana women thrive.

Since our very first grant in 2000, together we've given thousands of women and girls access to the tools they need to move from surviving to thriving.



- Our grants and initiatives have provided job-training and wage-negotiation classes for women, effectively raising their income moving forward.
- We've supported financial education training and entrepreneurship training for women, ensuring financial stability and opportunity.
- We've worked with partners across the state to grow access to training and opportunities for our girls, creating a strong and growing STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) ecosystem.
- Our research and policy work have helped end payday lending, raise awareness and efforts around closing the gender pay gap, worked toward increasing access to paid leave and so much more.

We've come a long way on our journey toward equity in the past 20 years, thanks to your vision and support. Thank you for starting and sustaining this vital work!

We know we still have far to go, but as we look toward our next 20 years of powerful work, we are so grateful to be on this powerful journey on the road to equity....together.

Onward!

Jen Euell  
Program Director

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## Our Top 3 in 2019

## New Training Opportunity Launched

WFM was pleased to bring Ruchika Tulshyan, author of the Diversity Advantage, to Montana in May to speak at both the Athena Pack Conference and a WFM and MSU Bozeman organized training entitled All-IN Montana. All-IN Montana invited leaders from more than 20 Montana workplaces to come together and learn about the value of diversity and inclusion in creating innovative and successful teams.



### Listening Session Tour

We held listening sessions with 16 groups of Montanans, focusing primarily on rural and tribal communities. Our objective was to learn about the positive things happening in their communities that deserve support, as well as the challenges women and girls continue to face. We heard loud and clear that Montana women and girls continue to suffer from lack of economic opportunity and access to basic needs, especially in our most rural areas. But we also heard that many women leaders are emerging and the growth of women-owned businesses is a source of hope.

### 525 PowerHouse Members...and Counting!

We created connection and knowledge-sharing through our PowerHouse Montana project. This year we added more than 50 new PowerHouse members to our online platform at [www.powerhousemt.org](http://www.powerhousemt.org). In total, 10 Montana communities held 43 PowerHouse gatherings, bringing women together to learn and create a network of support, even in our rural communities.

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## Partner Spotlight: Women Leading Montana and Innovate Montana



In the last quarter of the year WFM was proud to attend and support both the 2019 Innovate Montana Symposium in Butte and the Annual Women Leading Montana Convening in Billings, which brought together accomplished entrepreneurs, investors, influential business leaders, small business owners, and support organizations to ignite innovation and inspire entrepreneurship and women's leadership throughout Montana communities.

In addition to being motivated by the phenomenal speakers and outstanding people in attendance - WFM loved being able to facilitate connections and mentoring opportunities through both our PowerHouse Montana Pop-Up gathering and the Female Founders Lunch.

Also, a big congratulations to Mallory Ottariano, Founder, Owner of Kind Apparel, for winning the SharkPITch at Innovate Montana, along with a \$5,000 award.

Interested in more gatherings like these? [Check out our Facebook Events page.](#)

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## PowerHouse Featured Profile

Winter is upon us - which means it's time to introduce our newest featured PowerHouse Profile for Winter 2019, Paige Williams.

Paige Williams began her career as a documentary filmmaker. Her first film was about her experience as a Southern gay woman, her parent's ex-gay ministry, and their relationship. How do you love family when everyone fundamentally disagrees? As CEO and Founder of the Audience Awards, Paige knows firsthand that one film can change a 1000 minds.



So, what motivates and inspires her? "Good stories that inspire change, as well as providing opportunities to elevate those stories."

[Read more about Paige's passion](#)

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## Leadership Opportunity Roundup

WFM is focused on increasing the number of women serving in leadership positions, including statewide boards and commissions. Consider applying for one of these excellent leadership opportunities!

### **State of Montana Board, Council and Commission Openings, from the Office of the Governor**

#### **State Banking Board**

Description: The State Bank Board makes final determinations on applications for new banks, acts in an advisory capacity on banking, and reviews the decisions on applications for the formation or closure of branch banks, sales of branch banks or the consolidation, merger, or relocation of banks and branch banks conducting hearings as required.

Position: Active officer of a national bank.

Website: [www.banking.mt.gov/Banks\\_TrustCompanies\\_CreditUnions/banking\\_board](http://www.banking.mt.gov/Banks_TrustCompanies_CreditUnions/banking_board)

Commitment: Meets only as needed (sometimes as low as once every couple of years)

Compensation: \$50/day + travel

Takeaway: Provide leadership to the state of Montana on an issue you know well, without the demands or time commitment.

#### **State Emergency Response Commission**

Description: The State Emergency Response Commission creates and implements the state hazardous material incident response team and collects and disseminates information relating to emergency response.

Position: (4 positions available) 1-Public Health Related Association; Tribal Emergency Response Committee; Law Enforcement Association; National Guard Representative

Website: <http://readyandsafe.mt.gov/Emergency/SERC>

Commitment: Meets approximately 3-4 times a year, pending a significant disaster in Montana.

Compensation: Travel costs

Takeaway: Help the state of Montana be fully prepared and represent your particular sector in the larger discussion of how to make sure all resources and services come together to protect our state.

### **Ground Water Assessment Steering Council**

Description: The Ground Water Assessment Steering Committee Council establishes policy and coordinates the Ground Water Assessment Program.

Position: Development Community Representative

Website: N/A DNRC Website: <http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/water/water-rights>

Commitment: Meets approximately once a year.

Compensation: None, completely volunteer

Takeaway: Help the state of Montana be fully prepared and represent your particular sector in the larger discussion of how to make sure all resources and services come together to protect our state.

**Looking for a new paid gig? Check out the [PowerHouse Montana Jobs Board](#) for opportunities.**

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## **WFM Around the State**

Join us for one of our PowerHouse gatherings or another WFM sponsored or hosted event soon to connect with our smart network and work with us to advance Montana women!

### **PowerHouse Flathead**

**December 19, 4-6pm**

Meet up with the Powerhouse crew for a holiday celebration in Kalispell at the Tailing Loop Winery for delicious beverages and the best of conversation. More information [here](#).

### **Business Days at the Capitol, Helena**

**January 6-7**

Join the Montana Chamber of Commerce, members, and friends from across the state as they kick off the new year with a business networking event featuring an Attorney General Forum, seminars, and more. Learn more and register [here](#).

### **PowerHouse Flathead**

**January 23, 4-6pm**

Meet up with the Powerhouse crew for the fresh new 2020 gathering in Kalispell at the Tailing Loop Winery for delicious beverages and the best of conversation. More information [here](#).

### **Women's Policy Leadership Institute, Helena**

**February 7-8**

WFM is a proud sponsor of Montana Women Vote's 2020 Women's Policy Leadership Institute again this year. Join women from across the state to build relationships, discuss policy issues and learn skills together at this powerful gathering. More information [here](#).

### **Thrive Girls for a Change Summit: Ignite, Create, Lead**

**February 8, 8-5**

Join hundreds of high school-aged girls from across the state in more than 35 workshops designed to encourage girls to step out of their comfort zone and have fun! Register today to nab a spot [here](#). WFM is a proud sponsor!



## Support Montana Women and Girls!

Will you help us fuel opportunities that lead to a brighter, more prosperous future for Montana women and girls? **Help us reach our goal of \$10,000 by December 31.** Every gift counts in this long road to equity.

Give today to have your gift matched by a generous donor, doubling the impact of your gift!

[Give Now](#)

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### ABOUT THE WOMEN'S FOUNDATION OF MONTANA

Established in 1999, the Women's Foundation of Montana is a component fund of the Montana Community Foundation working to grow the economic security of women and create a brighter future for girls in Montana. With a permanent endowment of more than \$1 million, the foundation has awarded more than \$500,000 to organizations improving the lives of women and girls in Montana.