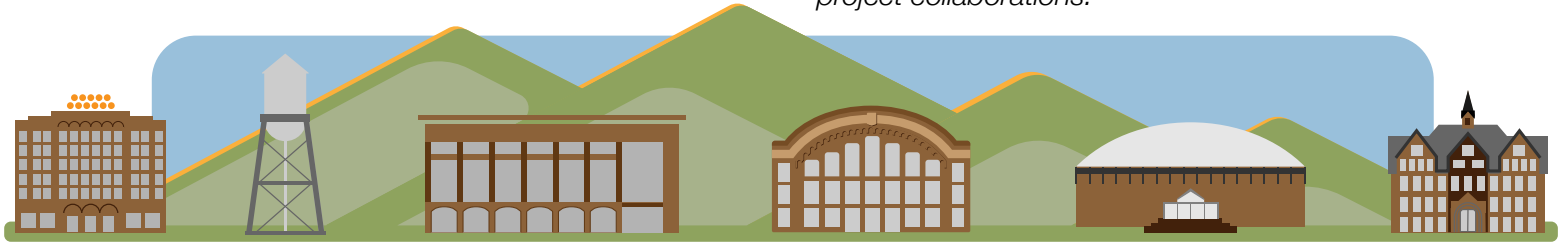# Community-engaged And Transformational Scholarship Initiative

CATS

CATS is an initiative to facilitate large-scale meaningful and impactful partnerships between Montana State University and surrounding communities through course-based project collaborations.

The initiative delivers a simple model to:

- Match community identified needs and community driven projects to university capacity and expertise
- Magnify engagement of students and faculty across departments and disciplines
- Work within existing institutional structures using an "opt-in" framework for engagement
- Afford students with valuable opportunities to apply their skills in real contexts while making positive impacts in their communities
- Provide access to new ideas, energy, and university capacity to local partners to solve pressing community-based needs

Example Community Needs/Goals:

Identify effective public engagement tools

Assure water quality and conservation

Address climate change resiliency

Support community health and wellness

Develop safe routes to school

Manage congestion/promote alternative transportation modes

Create community through arts, culture, and placemaking

Assess and enhance accessibility

Promote local producers/ economic development

Ensure affordable housing stock

University Expertise:

- Business
- Environmental Science
- Community Health
- Planning
- Environmental Health
- Art
- Economics
- Landscape Design
- Education
- Architecture
- Geography
- Sociology
- Public Administration
- Sustainable Food Systems
- Health and Human Development
- Engineering and Computer Science
- Marketing and Communications

How it works:

A CATS coordinator works with interested cities, towns, counties, or other community entities and university faculty to match multidisciplinary project-based courses to a set of community-identified needs over an academic year. The partnerships require submission of proposed projects and commitments for coordination, project management assistance, and resources required to ensure successful project outcomes.

Timeline:

Event	Time
Communities propose project list	Spring
CATS works with community partner to match proposed projects to courses	Spring/Summer
Kick-off event	Semester start
Fall semester course work	Fall
Spring semester coursework	Spring
End of year event: presentation & delivery of final deliverables	End of Spring term

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http://wrtwc.org/partnerships/cats/

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