The MAGIP Education Committee is pleased to announce the list of 2016 Grant and Scholarship recipients.

After reviewing many qualified applications, the two K-12 Education Grants that MAGIP supports were awarded to Mr. Hans Bodenhamer of the Bigfork Schools GIS and Science Program, and Wayne Stein, ED., in support of the White Clay Immersion School on the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation roughly 3 miles east of Harlem, MT. Both Hans Bodenhamer and Wayne Stein intend to use some of the grant funds to invest in tablet devices that their students will use to develop web and storymap applications. Students in Bigfork will initially focus on noxious weed mapping, and eventually branch out to include, projects related to fish, birds, mammals, and fire safety. At Fort Belknap, the White Clay School is a private A'annnih (Gros Ventre) Language School Affiliated with the A'annnih Nakoda College. The school teaches K-12 curriculum and an emphasis on incorporating their native language. The students will use grant funds to purchase tablets and develop a Cultural Story Map Project.

With many high quality applications to review, the education committee has selected five scholarship awardees. The MAGIP Higher Education Scholarship, in the amount of $2,000.00 is being presented to Sierra Curtis. Sierra is currently a senior at Bigfork High School and will attend The University of Montana this fall. She is already an experienced geospatial technology user and recently presented some of her work at the 2016 MAGIP Conference. She will use the scholarship funds to support the development of a comprehensive story map chronicling the state of human trafficking around the world.

With support from RedCastle Resources, Inc. we were able to provide four scholarships in the amount of $500.00 each to some talented and motivated students.

Chris Bilbrey is a graduate student working on a Master of Science degree at Montana State University, in the Department of Earth Science. Chris will be using a suite of geospatial tools to develop new field measurement techniques for quantifying the spatial variability of snowpack and how that relates to snowpack stability.

Michael Frothingham is also a first year graduate student in the Department of Earth Sciences at Montana State University. He will be developing a modeling routines that all the integration of field data and digital spatial data to better understand the relationships between geologic units. Along with that, he is also proposing digital cartographic methods to streamline geologic map production.

Philip Williams will be a first year graduate student in The National Center for Landscape Fire Analysis, at the University of Montana. At the Center, he will be working with a team of scientists that are learning to apply autonomous aerial systems to forestry and wildland fire situations. In that work, they will be merging GIS-enabled data models with cloud-based radiometric processing algorithms to ensure timely delivery of fuel models from airborne sensors.

Jeremiah SunderRaj is an undergraduate student at The University of Montana, were he is a dedicated and passionate young spatial ecologist. Jeremiah and one of his professors just completed a preliminary analysis of wolf watching spatial data this semester, and it was so productive and such an interesting avenue, that he will be working with Yellowstone National Park next year as a full-year independent study to further refine a system for managing wildlife viewing and vehicle traffic.