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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Montana Playwrights Network Receives Grants for its Original Radio Series:  
*Montanans At Work!***

The **Montana Playwrights Network** (MPN) is pleased to announce that it has been awarded two generous grants to support its new radio series, *Montanans At Work*, a show that highlights employment and professionals in Big Sky Country. MPN received a \$3,000 grant from the **Greater Montana Foundation (GMF)\*** in support of three episodes in addition to a \$2,000 award from the **William B. Pratt Endowment Fund** administered by the **Montana Community Foundation (MCF)\*\*** in support of episode 3: *Humor in Indian Country*.

MPN created *Montanans At Work* in response to the Covid-19 pandemic when the organization was forced to postpone its originally planned, public performance programming in 2020. MPN's Board of Directors met the challenge to continue working during the shutdown by exploring other media forms including video and radio.

MPN's radio committee envisioned *Montanans At Work* to begin with four ½ hour episodes in 2021, with the pilot program highlighting Montana's librarians and libraries. **Sponsored by Mosaic Architecture of Helena** and **Cluttercountdown.com**, this **first episode** includes informative interviews with librarians around Montana, a brief historical examination of a Carnegie library still open today, a humorous lyrical ballad about a librarian with superpowers, and vignettes of library humor. **Episode 2** focuses on game wardens in Montana and features interviews with professionals and a humorous play about a novice female game warden who is confronted by a grizzled, back country poacher. **Episode 3** called *Humor in Indian Country*, features an examination of indigenous peoples' culture of humor through interviews with Native American comedians, scholars, and performing artists and co-hosted by Mike Jetty and Shane Doyle. **Episode 4** highlights holiday employment, interviews with various Montana professionals and holiday celebrations in Big Sky Country, as well as holiday cowboy poetry and song. The pilot episode of *Montanans At Work* is available on MPN's website at [www.MontanaPlaywrights.org](http://www.MontanaPlaywrights.org), with the remaining episodes currently in production. All episodes will be presented by community and commercial radio stations around Montana.

\*Founded by pioneer broadcaster, Ed Craney in 1958, the **Greater Montana Foundation (GMF)** provides grants to improve the quality of communications on important issues through electronic media. The Greater Montana Foundation benefits the people of Montana by encouraging communication, with an emphasis on electronic media, and on issues, trends and values of importance to present and future generations of Montanans. GMF offers awards for excellence and continuing professional development

for Montana broadcasters, reflecting Mr. Craney's emphasis on commercial broadcasting. More information about the GMF is available at <http://www.greatermontana.org>.

\*\*Since 1988, the **Montana Community Foundation** (MCF) has worked tirelessly to create permanent philanthropy and build stronger communities. MCF manages more than \$125 million in assets and administers more than 1,300 philanthropic funds and planned gifts. MCF's work with donors, charitable organizations, cities and towns plays a critical role in both philanthropic and community development. William "Bill" Pratt, a former employee at MCF, established the William B. Pratt Endowment Fund at MCF in 2018 because of his life-long interest in Indigenous, folk, traditional, and media arts. Bill has experience as a musician working in the folk tradition, as a living history and production artisan in forged iron, and as a producer in community video production and documentary and industrial films. More information about MCF and the William B. Pratt Endowment Fund at <https://mtcf.org>.

The Montana Playwrights Network provides a forum focusing on Story through a variety of formats including playwriting, storytelling, poetry, history, non-fiction, essays, and memoirs. MPN connects with **writers, storytellers, educators, performers, theatre companies, libraries, book clubs, and businesses** interested in the philosophy and practice of Story as a way to build communities across Montana.

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