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June 8, 2021

Dear MPSEOC Members,

I am excited to submit my application to join the Montana Post Secondary Educational Opportunities Council Board of Directors.

The opportunity to help MPSEOC in its mission to promote higher education in Montana means a lot to me. I was born, raised, and educated in Montana, have lived here for most of my life, and am raising my son here. I care deeply about the future of this state and believe access to higher education is key. Montana is a big, diverse state and MPSEOC has a proven track record of connecting students to the right college for them, even if it's an eight-hour drive away.

While I am relatively new to the admissions profession, my experience in the private sector has proven valuable to Montana Tech and I think it could also serve MPSEOC well. Since attaining my MFA in Integrated Digital Media from the University of Montana in 2012, I have worked primarily in the private sector at hardware technology companies. My roles have been broad-based, from co-founding a 3D printer manufacturing startup in Missoula, to driving rapid growth at a Colorado open source technology company, to updating an established Butte manufacturing company's communications across all media from web to print.

My experience in start-ups and growth-stage companies taught me the importance of flexibility and humility when working with a team. Sometimes you have to wear numerous hats at once, sometimes you aren't qualified to wear any of the hats but luckily your teammate is, and sometimes you aren't qualified but have to figure it out. Regardless, helping my team move toward a common goal is always my priority.

I would like to bring my perspective and experience to the MPSEOC board and would appreciate your support. I look forward to working with you!

Sincerely,
Ben Malouf