FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

NEW PROGRAM TO SERVE MONTANA'S HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS CREATED BY CARTER COUNTY MUSEUM & MUSEUM OF THE ROCKIES

November 17, 2016, Bozeman, MT - A new, collaborative mobile education program, "Mobile MAIA Science Lab" has been created for students in ninth through twelfth grades by Carter County Museum (CCM), Museum of the Rockies (MOR) at Montana State University, and Chioko Hammel and Sharon Carroll at Carter County High School (CCHS) in Ekalaka, Montana.

The Museum of the Rockies and Carter County Museum have had an official sister museum relationship since 2013. New funding from a grant awarded by Montana State University's Outreach and Engagement Council allowed these two institutions to develop the first educational initiative for this partnership. As the first collaborative sister project, the "Mobile MAIA Science Lab" will provide a model for future joint projects and outreach.

"This project has opened the door to collaboration in educational outreach between our two institutions," said Angie Weikert, Director of Operations, Education, & Public Programs at Museum of the Rockies. "Our sister relationship with CCM is a great benefit for our communities, including our schoolchildren. By working together and sharing curriculum and resources, both our institutions can provide more relevant and accessible lessons and activities for Montana teachers."

This classroom lab explores the mathematical and biologic concepts of growth curves while connecting students with Montana's agricultural economy and rich fossil history. A lesson developed by the science and math departments at CCHS and recently piloted at CCHS engages students in measuring femurs of cattle, chicken, deer, and the dinosaur Maiasaura. MOR and CCM provided access to materials and content oversight.

This traveling outreach program combines the osteology collections of CCM, the world's best-studied dinosaur growth series from MOR, and partnership with Carter County High School. The result is an engaging learning experience that connects Montana rural students to mathematical concepts, agriculture, and natural science.

"Creative labs like the Mobile MAIA project that help teachers enforce important mathematical and scientific concepts are critical in student engagement in the classroom. This lab helps students see how concepts they learn in high school can be applied in their daily life," said Sharon Carroll, CCHS Math Educator and chair of Montana's Board of Public Education.

The trunk will be available for use to area high schools upon request at the Carter County Museum beginning in January 2017. First priority for the "Mobile MAIA Science Lab" will be given to teachers.
and schools in southeastern Montana. CCM and MOR anticipate that this lab could reach 20 rural Montana classrooms this spring.

To reserve the trunk, please contact Sabre Moore, Exhibits and Development, Carter County Museum. smoore@cartercountymuseum.org

CCHS Advanced Math students Kylee Kennedy, Tanner Fix, and Glen Frye were instrumental in piloting the program last spring, with the CCHS Biology and Chemistry courses implementing further testing this fall. Angie Weikert at the Museum of the Rockies, and Mikayla Struble, an undergraduate paleontology student at Montana State University, visited Carter County High School and the Carter County Museum last spring during the project's development phase. Chioko Hammel, Sharon Carroll, and Angie Weikert presented the trunk to teachers at this year's MEA-MFT conference. Nathan Carroll, curator of Carter County Museum, and Sabre Moore of Carter County Museum's Exhibits and Development Department continue to provide content oversight. Chioko Hammel, CCHS Science Educator, is also on the board of trustees at Carter County Museum and is a past director of the Carter County Museum. Sharon Carroll, CCHS Math Educator, is on the Museum of the Rockies' Teacher Advisory Committee and currently chairs Montana's Board of Public Education.

For more information email smoore@cartercountymuseum.org.

About the Carter County Museum (CCM)
Carter County Museum has been preserving the rich history of the Ekalaka area since 1934. We were Montana's first county museum, and the first to display dinosaurs in the state. That's a history that spans some 80 million years - with exhibits ranging from a mounted skeleton of an Anatotitan cope, to eleven-thousand-year-old arrowheads, to early pioneer artifacts.

CCM Mission
To increase and diffuse knowledge and appreciation of art, history, and science; to discover, excavate, and preserve fossils, fossil bones, and human artifacts; to advance the science of archaeology and paleontology; to collect and preserve objects of historic, artistic, and scientific interest; and to acquire and maintain a library to assist in the above purpose.

About Museum of the Rockies (MOR)
Museum of the Rockies is both a college-level division of Montana State University and an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit institution. Accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, MOR is one of just 776 museums to hold this distinction from the more than 17,500 museums nationwide. The Museum is also a Smithsonian Institution affiliate and a federal repository for fossils.

MOR Mission
Using the past and present Museum of the Rockies inspires life-long learning in science, history, culture, and art; advances knowledge through collections, research and discovery; and presents engaging, vibrant exhibits and programming. MOR brings the world to Montana and Montana to the world.