

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

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MSU president Waded Cruzado was elected to serve a three-year term on the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities Board of Directors. She attended her first board meeting this summer.

MSU signed an agreement in June with Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), a Costa Rican land-grant university, that promotes collaborative activities between the two universities as they study food supply and sustainability issues in their respective regions.

Rebecca Skloot, author of the bestselling “The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks,” and members of the Lacks family will speak at MSU’s 2015 Freshmen Convocation on Aug. 26. “The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks” is the 2015 MSU freshmen book selection.

MSU’s ADVANCE Project TRACS program, which works to broaden the participation of women faculty in STEM and underrepresented areas of social and behavioral science on the university’s campus, has won a national award recognizing its innovation and impact on equitable workplace practices at MSU.

MSU virologist Michelle Flenniken was recently awarded three grants to study why honeybees, the primary pollinator force of the nation’s food supply, are experiencing high losses.

Hundreds gathered in May at MSU’s Jobs Hall, home of the Jake Jobs College of Business and Entrepreneurship, to celebrate the newly constructed building with a ceremony and ribbon cutting. The new facility, which features open and collaborative learning spaces, was made possible by a \$25 million gift from MSU alumnus and Montana native Jake Jobs.

MSU faculty member Eric Grumstrup, who investigates new materials for solar cells, has received an early career award from the U.S. Department of Energy. The five-year, \$750,000 grant will allow him and his students to study “disordered semiconductors,” with the goal of understanding materials that may improve efficiency and reduce the cost of solar cells.

MSU researchers and their collaborators have published their findings about a chemical compound that shows potential for treating rheumatoid arthritis in the *Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (JPET)*. *JPET* is a leading scientific journal that covers all aspects of pharmacology, a field that investigates the effects of drugs on biological systems and vice versa.

For the second year in a row, MSU has received recognition in the respected CWTS Leiden Ranking for its scientific impact and collaboration. The ranking is based on universities’ scientific contributions published in scholarly journals, as well as the impact that those scientific findings have on the international community. Impact is measured by the number of times the research is cited in subsequent articles published in scholarly journals. MSU is one of only 158 U.S. universities to be included on the list.

A record number of students graduated this spring from I LEAD, an MSU program that prepares American Indian educators for leadership positions in schools with high populations of American Indian students. Since I LEAD’s inception in 2006, 104 students have completed the program and earned master’s degrees and licensures, and 93 percent of those students have been placed in school leadership positions within two years of graduation.

MSU scientist Jim Wilking, who researches biofilms, received the National Science Foundation’s top award for young scientists. The Young Investigator CAREER Award gives [Jim Wilking](#) \$503,396 over five years to continue his research. He will also use the award to develop teaching modules for after-school programs across Montana.