



CAMPUS REPORT | Board of Regents Meeting | May 23-24, 2013 | Great Falls

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MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY | BOZEMAN  
President Waded Cruzado

MSU set a new record for spring enrollment with 13,700 students enrolled for the 2013 spring semester. The spring enrollment is up nearly 400 students from spring 2012.

Four MSU students won 2013 Goldwater Scholarships, the nation's premier scholarship for undergraduates studying math, natural sciences and engineering. All four are honors students and actively engaged in research. Alissa Bleem is a chemical engineering major; Natasha Pettinger is a biochemistry, chemistry and German major; Brian Redman is an electrical engineering major; and Matt Sherick is majoring in chemical engineering and bioengineering. Institutions can only nominate four individuals for Goldwater Scholarships each year which means that all of MSU's nominees were selected.

An updated eight-lesson, Science of Everest curriculum based on the 2012 MSU Everest Education Expedition was recently released for 3-8 grade teachers. The free lessons cover geology, climate science, human physiology, glaciology, biodiversity and other STEM-related topics, and is based on research conducted by MSU geologist David Lageson and graduate student Travis Corthouts who traveled to Everest with mountaineer Conrad Anker and representatives from National Geographic and The North Face.

Danielle Clark, a junior majoring in sociology and political science who is also serving as MSU's student lobbyist during the 2013 Montana State Legislature, was named a Newman Civic Fellow. The award honors student leaders who have demonstrated an investment in finding solutions for challenges facing communities throughout the country.

MSU was the only college or university in Montana to make the list of "America's 100 Best College Buys" in 2013. The national ranking takes into account average high school GPA, ACT and SAT scores and tuition prices to develop its list.

A new MSU program is available to help MSU and Gallatin College MSU students with limited income save money for college expenses. The Matched Education Savings Account program, or MESA, is designed to help students pay for college and increase financial literacy. For every dollar an MSU student in the MESA program saves, it will be matched with \$3. For every dollar a Gallatin College MSU MESA student saves, it will be matched with \$4.

Blake Bjornson, a mechanical engineering major and honors student won a 2013 Udall Scholarship for his commitment to an environmentally related career. In addition, Kellie Phillips, an American Indian nursing student, received an Honorable Mention in the 2013 Udall Scholarship competition, in the Native health category. The Udall Foundation is an independent federal agency that provides federally funded scholarships for college students intending to pursue careers related to the environment, as well as to American Indian students pursuing tribal public policy or health care careers.

MSU launched a new web-based called Degreeworks in spring 2013 that enables students to map out their college education and help them stay on track to graduate. The system enables students to see which classes they've taken and how many more credits, and in which subject areas, they need to graduate. The system also allows them to explore options, such as changing majors or adding a minor.

MSU's Sustainable Food and Bioenergy Systems program has been named one of the 10 best college environmental programs in the United States by Mother Nature Network. Mother Nature Network, or MNN, recognized the colleges and universities for incorporating sustainability into the curriculum. MNN is an online network that promotes environmental and social responsibility. Other universities with programs in the top 10 include Cornell University, Duke University, Arizona State University and Yale University.



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MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY | BILLINGS

MSUB celebrated its annual 31<sup>st</sup> Outstanding Alumni Awards by recognizing the accomplishments of the following five distinguished individuals: attorney, Bobby Anner-Hughes, Outstanding Alumna; economic developer, Jeremy Vannatta, Merit Medallion; teacher, Sue Schuld, Recognition for Exceptional Achievement; physician, Laurentiu Istrate, Recognition for Exceptional Achievement; and Office of Community Involvement leader, Kathy Kotecki, Ronald P. Sexton Award for Professional Commitment to the University.

The International Studies Club at MSUB, in conjunction with Sodexo foods and Tracy Mouser, Program Coordinator for International Student Services, created a unique global cuisine experience on campus. During the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual International Food Fair, we sampled great foods from around the world and shared a cultural exchange with the students.

Four students attending City College were recognized for outstanding performance at the annual State Skills USA Competition: Dan Long, Jedrick Schatz, Matthew Tucker and Taylor Fouts.

MSUB is excited to report that one year after adopting and implementing a "Tobacco Free Campus", we are witnessing decreased tobacco use institution-wide. Due to the strong compliance with the policy and the helpful cessation programs, Student Health Educator, Darla Tyler-McSherry, is excited to report a healthier campus to learn, work and live.

"Chicks in Science" was developed in 2008 to encourage grade school and middle school-aged girls to enter STEM related fields. We recently celebrated the sixth great "Chicks in Science" event that attracted 2,000 participants. Thanks to the generosity of our wonderful sponsors and the hard work of our committed volunteers! Denece Lord, a high school science teacher in Billings, was our Keynote Speaker. Outstanding STEM Nominees in the community were also honored.

A free Financial Literacy Workshop was offered to our students for guidance on making more informed and effective financial decisions.

The MSUB Music Department presented a Faculty Recital featuring Mark Fenderson, trumpet; Luke Kestner, percussion; Doug Nagel, voice; and accompanied by Sandi Rabas, pianist. A number of students presented their recitals this semester: Seniors: Brad Knutson, piano; Reagan Saulsbury, piano; and Marsahl Pluhar, vocalist, accompanied colleagues Kelly Deiling, Charli Mader, Sandi Rabas, Gavin Askin and Rachel Kathleen Weitz. Juniors: Devin Kennedy, drums; Keith Yoder, guitar; and Rachel Kathleen Weitz, vocal and piano. The MSUB University Chorus and the Chamber Singers, under the direction of Assistant Professor Doug Nagel; performed two concerts of stringtime melodies.

"Student Employees of the Year," honored for their work in the community and on campus were: Jin Hyung Lee, Tia Robinette, Mathew Wallila, Robert Hutchinson and Patrick Mueller.

MSUB inducts five former students/athletes into the 2013 Hall of Fame: Jeff Andresen, Theresa Campbell, Alicia Cazemier, Markus Hallgrimson and Ally Stroup.



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MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY | NORTHERN

**GE Donates Training Engine** - Building on an ongoing partnership with MSU-Northern, General Electric Transportation donated a cut-away Tier II/Tier III Diesel locomotive training engine and specialized tooling valued at 1 million dollars to MSU-Northern's Diesel Technology program.

**Wrestling Team Places Third in Nation** - The MSU-Northern wrestling team placed third at the NAIA national tournament in Des Moines, Iowa. Seven wrestlers from MSU-Northern were named to the All-American team.

**Program Prioritization Review** - MSUN's faculty and academic leaders have just completed the program prioritization review process. All programs (75 certificates and degrees) were reviewed and recommendations were made to grow, maintain, integrate/revise, or phase-out.

**We Love Northern Ball Raises \$25/K** - The MSU-Northern Foundation hosted the We Love Northern Ball to raise money for student scholarships. The annual event included live music and dancing, live and silent auctions, and a spectacular dinner. Over \$25,000 was raised.

**Legislative Reception** - MSU-Northern participated in the MUS-wide legislative reception in Helena College UM's airport campus. MSU-Northern's display featured a robotic welder and 3D printer, as well as the great work of our students, faculty, agencies, and programs.

**Rebuild Tennis Courts** - Based on the results of a campus-wide survey, the administration at MSU-Northern secured funding to resurrect the run-down tennis courts adjacent to the Armory Gymnasium. Work should begin in early summer.

**Northern Hosts MACRAO Conference** - For the first time in 11 years MSU-Northern hosted the Montana Association of Collegiate Registrar's and Admission's Officers' (MACRAO) annual two-day conference. Representatives from 11 Montana colleges and universities came to review policy changes and discuss starting a MACRAO website.

**Northern Hosts State SkillsUSA Competition** - MSU-Northern hosted the 42nd annual SkillsUSA state conference. The competition included 352 students from 35 high schools and 2 post-secondary schools competing in nearly 40 different categories, including arc welding, carpentry, and job interview.

**Student Excellence Winners** - MSU-Northern bestowed the esteemed Student Excellence Award on 10 deserving students this year. The winners, nominated by faculty and staff members, demonstrate commitment to educational goals through dedication to academics and extracurricular activities.

**Evidence of Retention Success** - For the 2012-2013 school year MSU-Northern has enjoyed a 6.5% increase in its student persistence rate. This encouraging data comes after consulting with a Noel Levitz retention consultant as part of MSU-Northern's commitment to student success and retention.



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MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY | GREAT FALLS

The Great Falls Chamber of Commerce acknowledged Great Falls College MSU as the **Business of the Quarter** in February. The College was recognized as playing a leading role in transforming the lives of our students, their communities and the economic prosperity of Montana by responding to learner and community needs through the use of partnerships, innovation, outreach and technology.

Great Falls College MSU is pleased to announce a \$30,000 donation from **General Distributing Company**. The donation will support expanding needs of the welding program and help fund the Canadian Welding Bureau (CWB) gap analysis. This analysis is the first step to the College becoming a CWB testing facility. Welders who work on any trans-border welding projects are required to be certified by both the CWB and the American Welding Society (AWS). General Distributing Company is a family owned business that has been serving Montana since 1948.

The Grand Opening celebration of the **Issksiniip Native American Enrichment Center** began with a traditional Blackfeet honor song and prayer followed by speakers from Great Falls College, the Blackfeet Community College Issksiniip team, and the Blackfeet Tribal Chairman followed by a smudge ceremony to cleanse, purify and bless the new Issksiniip Native Enrichment Center. This ceremony was led by **Don Fish**, GFC MSU Adjunct Faculty and Blackfeet Tribal Member. The Issksiniip project is a partnership with Blackfeet Community College and provides opportunities to pursue degrees in health related fields.

More than 200 area high school students participated in the annual **GFC MSU Healthcare Career Day** where they were exposed to a variety of healthcare career opportunities. The importance of taking math and science classes in high school to prepare for a healthcare career was stressed as students engaged with healthcare providers from the community to calculate dosages of medication, view an endoscopy scope, match food intake with insulin dosages for diabetic patients, perform endotracheal intubations, administer IV drugs, read EKG's, and view radiological films.

GFC MSU math and science faculty and students participated in the **Great Falls STEM Expo** in March highlighting science, technology, engineering and math education. Math faculty **Val Smith** and **Claire Flood** presented activities that explored fractals, patterns that often occur in nature and have many interesting mathematical properties. **Vanja Velickovska**, biology faculty, presented activities that involved the human olfactory sensory system. More than 400 students participated in the event.

Community service learning is integrated into both the GFC MSU dental assisting and dental hygiene programs to enrich the students' learning experiences, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities. On **Sealant Day** in March, students, with the help of local dentists, held a free screening for children ages 5-17. The students placed dental sealants and fluoride varnish on the teeth of qualifying children.

The GFC MSU **Health Information Technology** AAS degree is offered completely online and is the only program of its type in the state accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education. Because it is accredited, its graduates are eligible to take the national certification examination for Registered Health Information Technicians. GFC is proud to announce a 100% pass rate for first time test takers on the exam with scores above the national average in all of the content areas.

**Dustin Spivey** received the Newman Civic Fellow Award, honoring inspirational college student leaders who have demonstrated an investment in finding solutions for challenges facing communities throughout the country. Dustin is a second-year student at GFC. He is secretary for the Associated Students of GFC MSU, President of the College's Phi Theta Kappa Chapter, a computer tutor in the GFC MSU Learning Center, and has volunteered for numerous campus community projects.