

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

BOZEMAN | BILLINGS | NORTHERN | GREAT FALLS COLLEGE

CAMPUS REPORT | Board of Regents Meeting | January 7-8, 2019 | Helena



MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY BILLINGS

- On Dec. 6, **Dr. Mac Powell, Senior Fellow of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU)**, and Dr. Steve Meredith, Associate Dean in the Graduate and Online School at Southern Utah University, led a conversation with MSUB faculty and staff on creating meaningful benchmarks. This was the first in a series of conversations on strategic assessment with the NWCCU as MSUB finalizes the draft framework for our new strategic plan.
- **Dr. Vicki Trier has been selected as Dean of City College.** She assumed her new role on January 2. Trier was most recently Associate Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs at Lane Community College in Eugene, Ore. Trier has a doctorate degree in Education, specializing in Higher Education Administration, from the University of Idaho and a bachelor's degree in Telecommunications from Indiana University.
- **A steering committee has been established for Strategic Program Alignment of academic programs.** The committee has begun working with department chairs, program directors, and faculty on a process that will result in final recommendations by mid-February.
- **The RN to baccalaureate degree in nursing program has been accredited** by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). The accreditation was effective from the date of the CCNE on-site evaluation (April 9, 2018). The official accreditation decree was received by MSUB in November which includes the inaugural class of 14 RN to BSN program students who graduated in August.
- **MSUB was as a recipient of special recognition as a Purple Heart University** by The Department of Montana Military Order of the Purple Heart. A designation ceremony was held during the Veterans Day celebration at MSUB on Nov. 11. This designation recognizes that MSUB actively supports combat-wounded veterans and implements that steadfast support of the military and veterans on campus.
- **Dr. Susan Barfield, Educational Theory and Practice Professor Emeritus, recently served as a Fulbright specialist** at Vilniaus Kolegija in Lithuania. She taught a course on integrating culture into the classroom, presented workshops on student assessment, conducted teacher in-services on eBook development, and met with the Lithuanian Department of National Minorities to discuss educational issues and solutions.
- **The Native American Achievement Center has launched a farm-to-table program** in partnership with the Native American Development Corporation. The program's goal is to bring healthy food grown locally to the dinner tables of Native elders and community members living in Billings and across the state, as well as influence students to consume fresh produce as part of a healthy lifestyle.
- **MSUB joined institutions from across the nation to celebrate first-generation college students** on Nov. 8. First-Generation Week is an effort to recognize students, faculty, and staff who are the first in their families to attend college. This initiative is held in partnership with the American Association of Colleges and Universities and the Council for Opportunity in Education.
- **City College at MSUB hosted a Women in Apprenticeship and Non-traditional Occupations (WANTO) workshop** with the Career Training Institute. The one-day exploratory workshop was for women interested in pursuing a career in the trades industries. Participants learned about opportunities for women in the trades, explored educational programs, and heard from women working in the trades industries.
- **The MSUB Military and Veteran Success Center opened** during the Veterans Day celebration on Nov. 11. The center will serve as a welcoming place for the military, veterans, and their families to meet and interact, gain access to resources, and receive support with Veterans Affairs benefits. Recently retired Air Force Colonel Dawn Githens has been selected as the Center's Director and assumed her role on Nov. 19.
- **MSUB celebrated International Education Week, Nov. 12-16.** MSUB's Office of International Studies planned a week full of events including food, presentations, and a dance from different cultures for students, faculty, staff, and the public. Sponsored by the United States Department of State, MSUB is the only university in Montana participating in this event, according to the organization's website.
- **Denis Eugene Otterness was selected as MSUB Chief of Police.** Most recently, Otterness was Deputy Chief of Police for the Bloomington Police Department in Bloomington, Minn. He brings over 27 years of broad experience and leadership to his new position, including over six years as a Task Force Officer for the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).
- **The Montana Veterans Affairs Division Billings Service Office has relocated to MSUB's university campus.** The relocation will benefit MSUB by providing services to veteran students and helping them learn how to utilize and explore their higher education benefits.