

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

BOZEMAN | BILLINGS | NORTHERN | GREAT FALLS COLLEGE

CAMPUS REPORT | Board of Regents Meeting | June 30, 2020



MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY BILLINGS

- **Student leaders take initiative in response to pandemic.** In an attempt to support student clubs and organizations impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Associated Students of Montana State University Billings passed a bill to allow student clubs and organizations to roll-over 50 percent of their remaining allocated budgets, with the caveat that they must spend the monies on items that will directly support students.
- **MSU Billings partners with local VA to provide students complete computer packages.** The Veterans Affairs Vocational Rehab program partnered with several MSU Billings departments to ensure education continued when classes moved online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Four veteran students received brand new laptops, printers, etc., allowing them to successfully complete spring 2020 semester.
- **MSU Billings announces 2020 Golden Merit recipient.** Cyrine Boumediene was named the 2020 Golden Merit recipient, an award given to a graduating student with high scholastic achievement and strong campus and community involvement. The Associated Students of Montana State University Billings determines the recipient. Capping off her achievements, Boumediene was also named the 2020 Montana Society of CPAs Medallion for Outstanding Accounting Senior. She plans to continue her education in taxation.
- **Governor Bullock appoints Chancellor Edelman to state VA board.** Governor Steve Bullock appointed Chancellor Dan Edelman to the Montana Board of Veteran's Affairs. Edelman will serve on this board as a voting member representing region four. Under his leadership at MSU Billings, a Military and Veterans Success Center was established and the Billings office of Veteran's Affairs moved to campus, which allowed the institution to provide wraparound services for veterans, deliver gateway opportunities to attend college, and serve veterans in one centrally located place on campus.
- **Built from the ground up with students in mind.** Dean of the College of Health Professions and Science Kurt Toenjes has been integral in bringing the new science building to fruition. He has been at the forefront of planning, funding, and composition and has ensured that the new science building will be built with students in mind. All programs in the new building will have designated spaces created specifically for cutting-edge research and teaching and will allow students and faculty to conduct quality research in any field of interest, expanding the opportunities MSU Billings can offer in terms of laboratory and real-life research experience.
- **MSU Billings reimagines Extended Campus.** Operating under the new name of Extended Campus at City College MSU Billings, its mission is to assist in providing a skilled labor pool that meets the current and emerging workforce needs of local and regional employer communities. Extended Campus aims to become the regional choice for non-credit education, educational outreach, and develop industry partnerships and educational pathways.
- **Education program earns top ranking.** MSU Billings' online Applied Behavior Analysis graduate program has been ranked as one of the top five in the nation by AppliedBehavingAnalysisPrograms.com. Schools were analyzed and ranked according to several criteria including student-to-faculty ratio, tuition costs, and Board-Certified Behavior Analysis exam first-time pass rates. This ranking puts MSU Billings among top programs in the U.S. and international markets for online master's programs in Applied Behavior Analysis.
- **MSU Billings announces early start to fall 2020 semester.** MSU Billings will begin its fall 2020 semester three weeks early to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. The fall semester will begin Wednesday, Aug. 19 and end Wednesday, Nov. 25, shifting the semester's course load ahead by the same three-week period. The original fall semester start date was Sept. 9.
- **\$500K National Science Foundation grant funds interdisciplinary STEM education research.** Dr. Jana Marcette, director of Graduate Studies, will lead a research team on a \$500,000 federal research grant funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) on STEM education. The five-year interdisciplinary project will bring together experts from across the nation in education, biology, and social science fields as it seeks to improve the inclusion and retention of underrepresented students in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.
- **Students assist with packing up science building.** Over 20 students were hired to assist faculty in packing up their labs and moving to their temporary lab spaces while the construction for the new science building continues. Faculty and staff also came together to assist their fellow colleagues in getting their spaces and equipment packed. It is anticipated that faculty and staff will move into the new science building during summer 2021.
- **MSU Billings music professor's band earns regional Emmy nomination.** MSU Billings assistant music professor John Roberts and his band John Roberts y Pan Blanco were recently nominated for a regional Emmy in the Arts/Entertainment program category as a result of their outstanding fall 2018 live performance on 11th and Grant by Montana PBS which was viewed nationwide.