

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

BOZEMAN | BILLINGS | NORTHERN | GREAT FALLS COLLEGE

CAMPUS REPORT | Board of Regents Meeting | July 15-16, 2021



MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY BILLINGS

- **New MSUB Provost selected.** Sep Eskandari, Ph.D., has been selected as Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. Eskandari has a doctorate in Physiology from the University of California, Los Angeles and a master's degree in Biology from California Polytechnic University, Pomona. His previous academic administration positions include Associate Vice President for Faculty Affairs, Academic Senate Chair and Vice Chair, and Chair of the Biological Sciences Department. He will assume his new role on July 1.
- **MSU Billings forms business degree pathways with Northwest College, Miles Community College, Western Wyoming Community College, and Central Wyoming College** through a 2+2 partnership that will allow these college graduates who have completed an Associate of Science degree the opportunity to seamlessly transition to a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. Graduates who choose to participate in the 2+2 program will be able to obtain an MSUB business bachelor's degree completely online or in person in two years, assuming they are full-time students.
- **MSUB and City College receive funding extension for Become an Alum program.** Montana's Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) recently announced the extension of the Become an Alum (BAA) program at Montana State University Billings and City College. The Become an Alum program is designed to help former students of the Montana University System who may not have completed an initial degree or credential return to college. The BAA offers these students guidance, resources, and additional support in order to complete their degree.
- **The Academic Support Center (ASC) has provided personalized assistance to students in ensuring academic success for the past 20 years.** The ASC received a Title III grant in support of maintaining educational programs directed toward at-risk students on the university campus. Since then, the ASC has been making improvements to their services and physical spaces. Highly qualified academic professionals have joined their team to further promote and expand student success due to grant funding.
- **City College process plant technology instructor to create virtual reality water plant simulation** through a grant from the Montana NSF Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (ESPCor). The project is titled "Learn to Operate a Water Treatment Facility in Virtual Reality." City College instructor Andrew Sullivan will design the project with his students. Designing the program will involve construction of 3D modeling to represent the physical aspects of the plant and computer programming to provide interactivity. Water treatment facilities can be hazardous, expensive, and complex, and Sullivan aims to create an environment that provides training at an affordable cost.
- **2021 Golden Merit Award winner student Daniel Lurie** completed an organizational communications degree in May 2021 with plans to obtain a Master of Fine Arts. Lurie is a four-year resident assistant, but was promoted to lead resident assistant in 2020, a position created for the leadership qualities he possesses. Lurie is an accomplished writer and poet with winning poem entries in both the Fever Dream contest and MSUB's Sigma Tau Delta contest. He also serves as Editor-in-Chief for the student journal, The Rook. When reflecting on his time at MSUB, Lurie credits the past five years into forming the person he is today. The Golden Merit Award is presented to a graduating senior for their community service, leadership and academics.
- **Health and Human Performance senior recognized for academic efforts.** Bryce Peterson is one of two recipients of the 2021 Outstanding Undergraduate Leadership Award. He received a unanimous nomination from the Health and Human Performance (HHP) department. Peterson has served in many roles such as teaching assistant, supplemental instructor, STEM tutor and STEM Club secretary. His hard work has paid off as he graduated with Magna Cum Laude honors.
- **Music Performance major receives 2021 Outstanding Undergraduate Leadership award.** Alex Bush has dedicated many hours in promoting peer success through recording, editing, and audio management during musical recitals. He has recorded every performance in Cisel Recital Hall and holds the position as audio engineer. Bush volunteers his talents by performing at local charities and non-profits. The music department acknowledges tremendous strides in student talent such as Bush, who has also great community recognition.
- **New interim director at the Military and Veteran's Success Center.** Shane Grantham was recently hired as the interim director of the center to aid in the continuation of veteran outreach. Grantham, a Billings native, entered the U.S. Army after graduating from high school and served for 20 years in active duty. Grantham believes his experience and relatability will provide increasing support to fellow veterans. MSU Billings is a Purple Heart Designated institution, a designation given by the Department of Montana Military Order of the Purple Heart, and participates in the Yellow Ribbon program.
- **Radiology program acknowledged for high quality education at City College.** Recently the program was granted its initial accreditation from the Joint Review Committee on Education (JRCERT) for a period of three years. This program is now the only Radiologic program in Montana with this accreditation. Radiologic technicians are vital healthcare team members. In this position, preparing patients and administering X-rays or other radiologic procedures are included in the practice. At City College, students are immersed into a technologic learning environment with hands-on experiences and application of physics, biology, and safety techniques to produce a medical diagnosis. They also receive hands-on, practical experience through participating in clinical rotations at the two local Billings hospitals.