

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

BOZEMAN | BILLINGS | NORTHERN | GREAT FALLS COLLEGE

CAMPUS REPORT | Board of Regents Meeting | March 11-12, 2021



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MSU physicist Dana Longcope was awarded the [National Academy of Science's Arctowski Medal](#). The medal, given every other year, is a recognition of significant contributions to the study of solar physics.

Taylor Blossom, an MSU senior majoring in chemical engineering and economics from Helena, and Katherine Budeski, a 2018 biochemistry graduate from Bozeman who works in global health security, were [named Schwarzman scholars](#). They are among two of 154 Schwarzman Scholars selected from 3,600 applicants.

Sharon Neufeldt, an assistant professor in the [Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry](#), received the [Maximizing Investigators' Research Award](#) through the NIH's National Institute of General Medical Sciences to support her fundamental research into developing and increasing the efficiency of organic chemical reactions.

Leesha Ford, clinical nursing instructor on the [College of Nursing's](#) Bozeman campus, received the [Distinguished Nurse of the Year](#) award.

MSU was awarded more than [\\$3.5 million from the Army Research Lab](#) to develop a new generation of batteries that can hold more power and charge faster while also being safer and more resilient to extreme environments.

MSU researchers are part of an international effort to [develop the quantum internet](#). The two-year, \$6 million research contract funding from the Air Force Research Laboratory will support a team of MSU researchers to develop what's called the quantum internet, which harnesses the complex properties of light to interconnect quantum computers and improve speed and security.

MSU's [first interim winter semester in modern history](#), called "Snowmester" exceeded expectations, with nearly 2,000 students enrolled in courses.

MSU researcher Michael Mock is developing a [compound that effectively stores energy](#) within its nitrogen-hydrogen bonds. The compound, unlike many other sustainable energy sources which store electricity in batteries, could be used for purposes such as energy production.

Amber N. W. Raile, in the Jake Jabs College of Business and Entrepreneurship, was the lead author of an MSU study that found that in the early days of the pandemic women, especially [women with children, were disproportionately affected by the COVID pandemic's](#) mental load, workplace disruptions and impacts on daily life.

MSU mechanical engineering students helped design and build a working prototype with tiny sensors to help study how microbes grow and clog pipes on the International Space Station. The team's device was presented to NASA and [received a \\$100,000 grant](#) that will support using the device to develop sensors for detecting biofilm growth in the space station's plumbing.

MSU's [Norm Asbjornson College of Engineering](#) saw [female student enrollment reach 20%](#) of the total of 3,650 students, compared to 16% enrollment in 2012. The college has made recruiting women students a priority, and this milestone marks a major step toward that goal.