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To: Board of Regents

From: Les Cook
Chancellor, Montana Technological University

RE: Campus Report for January 11, 2024, Board of Regents Meeting

- Recently Montana received a \$2 million grant from the US Department of Energy under the State Manufacturing Leadership Program. DEQ, in partnership with the Montana Manufacturing Extension Center (MMEC) and Highlands College, will launch a Smart Manufacturing Technologies Outreach Initiative to help Montana manufacturers access and implement advanced technologies to improve facility operations and efficiency. As part of the initiative, Highlands College will offer a certificate program to develop a workforce with skills necessary to continue upgrading manufacturing technologies into the future.
- The Lance College of Mines and Engineering received a \$162,000 grant from the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE) to initiate sprint-degree pathways for the Bachelor of Science construction management program starting in the fall semester 2024. Incoming students with some AP, IB CLEP or dual enrollment college credits can finish the degree in as a few as three academic years.
- In December of 2023, Oredigger Media celebrated the 100th anniversary of student media at Montana Tech. The first edition of the *The Acropolitan*, the University's monthly student newspaper was published on Dec 14, 1923.
- The Montana Technological University Nursing Scholars Edge Program selects 10 Montana high school seniors every year from a pool of qualified applicants for direct-entry into highly competitive clinical spots in the Sherry Lesar School of Nursing. The School has been named the #1 nursing program in the state in numerous publications over the past several years and was named a Top 20 BSN Program in the U.S. by EDsmart in 2022.
- Scott Rosenthal, mining engineering department head, Sonya Rosenthal, adjunct professor in mining engineering, and Baylie Phillips, graduate student in metallurgical engineering, each earned the Butte Silver Bow Local Hero award for their exceptional contributions to Montana Tech, Butte, and the surrounding area. The award recognizes 10 citizens annually for their engagement and support of others. Scott and Sonya were recognized for their dedication to their students, student clubs, the World Museum of Mining and support of industry and mining organizations. Baylie was honored for her impactful research, as well as her years efforts to volunteer throughout the community.
- Montana Tech celebrated 195 graduates at the Fall Commencement Ceremony, including the first class from the Lance College of Engineering.