

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

BOZEMAN | BILLINGS | NORTHERN | GREAT FALLS COLLEGE

CAMPUS REPORT | Board of Regents Meeting | November 21-22, 2024



MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY BILLINGS

For the fall 2024 semester, [retention increases were recorded](#) for non-traditional, transfer, and military-affiliated students. Retention rates for nontraditional and transfer students reached their highest levels since 2013. Military-affiliated students receiving benefits achieved the highest retention rate since 2017, with a six-percentage point improvement over last year. Dual enrollment surged to a record-breaking high. These increases reflect MSU Billings' strategic initiatives aimed at removing barriers and improving student retention.

The Grants and Sponsored Programs Office presented the 3rd annual ResearchFest!, a free annual event presenting faculty research and scholarship, on October 10. Designed with the public in mind, this entertaining and educational evening showcased recent and current work from faculty members across MSU Billings in presentations, readings, and performances. Learn more about [MSUB research online](#).

The History Department presented the 2nd annual Edgerton History Lecture on September 26. The featured guest speaker was [Sarah Mellors Rodriguez, Ph.D.](#), acting associate professor of Chinese humanities at Emory University. The Edgerton History Lecture is designed to bring distinguished historians from other academic institutions to the MSU Billings campus and community. The lecture series is named for professor emeritus of history Keith Edgerton, Ph.D., who taught for 29 years at MSU Billings.

The Library hosted a lecture series [examining the film industry, titled "Reel Explorations,"](#) Tuesday evenings through the month of October. The series kicked off on October 8 with an examination of common stereotypes used in popular television programs since the 1940s from Melissa Boehm, Ph.D., a professor in the department of communication.

This September, MSU Billings hosted [a lecture](#) featuring the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI) Institute and the NASA Community College Network (NCCN). The lecture focused on the directives of the SETI Institute and curriculum development in MSU Billings courses.

In its annual ceremony on October 5, the MSU Billings Foundation & Alumni honored the recipients of the [2024 Outstanding Alumni Awards](#). These distinguished alumni have demonstrated exceptional achievements in their professions, contributed to their communities, and advanced MSU Billings through their ongoing support and dedication.

On November 4, MSU Billings welcomed Dr. Richard Beer as Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. In 2020-21, Dr. Beer served MSU Billings as the Interim Dean of the College of Business and continued as Advisor for Strategic Initiatives until 2022. Dr. Beer earned a doctorate in engineering with distinction from Technical University of Berlin in Germany. He has more than twenty years of experience as an administrator in higher education and as a tenured faculty member.

MSU Billings and the Mansfield Center partnered to host a lecture by Dr. Paul Lauren on November 19. Dr. Lauren is Regents Professor Emeritus and Distinguished Mansfield Fellow. The Mansfield Center honors the legacy of Senator Mike Mansfield and his wife, Maureen Hayes Mansfield.