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To: Board of Regents

From: Les Cook
Chancellor, Montana Technological University

RE: Campus Report for November 21-22, 2024, Board of Regents Meeting

- Montana Technological University was awarded \$6.5 million from the Department of Defense using Defense Production Act (DPA) authorities to address critical workforce needs in metallurgical, geological, mining, and environmental engineering by developing seven stackable certificates in Extractive Metallurgy; Mineral Deposit Exploration; Hydrogeology of Mines; Mining Engineering; Mineral Project Management & Evaluation, and Environmental Management for Mining Operations. This new educational pipeline at Montana Tech is meant to fill the human capital needs essential to supply the critical minerals and rare earth elements necessary to facilitate the advanced manufacturing of modern technology, ensure the national defense, and secure a clean energy economy.
- Driven by a surge in new first-time students, Montana Tech experienced nearly 5% overall growth in fall semester enrollment. For the first time in 15-years, over 500 first-year students are enrolled, a 15% jump over last fall. This includes 93 students from across Montana who make up the inaugural cohort of Lance Scholars. The percentage of female students grew from 39% to 41%. For the first time since the Living Learning Center opened in 2019, the residence halls are at full capacity, an increase of 7% over fall 2023.
- The Career Services team hosted a record-breaking fall career fair with 168 employers and 1,185 students participating.
- The Montana Tech chapter of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) and their partners Western Native Voice and Butte Native Wellness Center installed a new flag display in the Student Union Building to increase the visibility of the eight federally recognized tribes of Montana. The display was in place for Indigenous Peoples' Day and will remain through National Native American Heritage Month in November.
- Sarah North Wolfe and Sean Ryan were named to the 2024 class of 20 under 40. The Montana Standard and Butte Chamber of Commerce present the awards annually. Awardees are nominated by their peers for demonstrating and exemplifying outstanding leadership in business, philanthropy, and community. North Wolfe is Montana Tech's associate dean of students and executive director of student success and Ryan is the director of alumni engagement for the Montana Tech Foundation and the head women's and men's golf coach.
- A research group including Kevin Negus and Brandon Hunt completed the seed phase of the PHANTOM research project for the 11th Airborne Division, US Army and have now started the pilot phase. The PHANTOM project is developing an enclosure and deployment methodology for unattended mesh repeater radios used in extreme arctic field environments with temperatures as low as -65 degrees C. Total research funding for the seed and pilot phases is >\$1M.

- Dr. John Bognar joined Montana Tech as its first director of technology transfer to spearhead a growing number of projects that seek to commercialize technological discoveries at Montana Tech that have the potential to revolutionize a number of industries and spur economic growth. Bognar spent 26 years as a founder and leader in high-tech small businesses and has several years of teaching experience at the University level. He has served as president and founder of Anasphere since 2002. He has also previously served as vice president and founder of Glacigen Materials, and was active in the Montana Space Grant Consortium as BOREALIS flight director. Dr. Bognar has five US patents on gas and hydrogen generators, and a radio-acoustic sounding system for remotely measuring atmospheric temperature and humidity profiles.