



CAMPUS REPORT | Board of Regents Meeting | September 22-23, 2010 | Butte



MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY | BOZEMAN  
President Waded Cruzado

An MSU student-built robot won a national NASA contest at the Kennedy Space Center by digging the most simulated moon dirt in 15 minutes in May 2010. Montana MULE (Modular Unmanned Lunar Excavator) was the only robot that met and surpassed the 10 kilogram minimum requirement, defeating robots from 21 other colleges and universities.

Each summer the Montana Apprenticeship Program (MAP) brings high school age Native American and minority students to the MSU campus for a six-week camp. MAP has been around for more than 25 years and is part of the American Indian Research Opportunities program, which aims to increase the number of Native American and minority students who pursue careers in science.

Two graduate students, Devon Riter and Christi Kuhn, from MSU's Science and Natural History Filmmaking program took action when they learned of the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. The two drove to the Gulf and captured a series of videos that are now being used by national conservation groups to illustrate the human cost of the Gulf disaster.

MSU's record of placing students in medical and other health professions schools is consistently competitive and well above the national acceptance rate. Over the last five years, more than 60 percent of MSU student applicants were accepted to allopathic medical schools, more than 90 percent of MSU student applicants were accepted to osteopathic medical schools, and more than 70 percent of MSU student applicants were accepted to dental schools. Nationally, the average acceptance rate for this time frame for each of these disciplines was less than 50 percent.

Montana State University received a \$354,000 grant from the National Community Action Foundation and ExxonMobil to help develop a television network that trains weatherization workers across the nation. The Montana Weatherization Training Center will develop 36 episodes for a high-quality television show available over the Internet called WxTV.

MSU graduate Jill Roberts of Billings has received a coveted student Fulbright fellowship to teach English in Germany. Roberts will teach English in the German state of Brandenburg and study German methods of teaching math.

MSU was one of 50 universities nationwide to receive a Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) grant to support undergraduate and precollege education. The \$1.2 million, four-year award will be used to better integrate biomedical curriculum, fund summer and academic-year undergraduate research experiences for students and MSU programs that reach out to Native communities.

MSU is offering 10 online undergraduate courses this fall, in subjects such as biology, computers, nutrition, marketing and more. While MSU offers online courses for graduate students year-round, online undergraduate courses have usually been offered only in the summer.

School of Art Sculpture student, Crystal Carpenter, has received a Sculpture magazine 2010 Outstanding Student Achievement in Contemporary Sculpture Award and will be featured in the 2010 October issue. She was selected from over 445 students from 176 colleges and university sculpture programs in North America and abroad.

Dr. Laura Larsson, assistant professor of nursing on the Bozeman campus, has won a competitive grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) to study how to reduce radon exposure among low-income people, which could help prevent lung cancer and narrow health disparities. Larsson is one of just 12 nurse educators from around the country to receive the three-year \$350,000 "Nurse Faculty Scholar" award this year. It is given to junior faculty who show outstanding promise as future leaders in academic nursing.

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Jim Leach, Chairman, National Endowment for the Humanities, will be at MSU Billings on Friday, September 17, 2010 as part of a 50-state "American Civility Tour." Mr. Leach spoke about the need for civility in public discourse, focusing on the need to foster understanding and respect in public discourse so that the United States can "bring the spirit of reason back into politics."

MSUB COT presented a free "Career Awareness Fair for the Energy and Heavy Equipment Industries" at Billings Job Service. It was open to anyone interested in exploring career opportunities in energy and heavy equipment. Lyle Courtnage, an outreach and training coordinator at the College of Technology, said the event featured exposure to simulator training of heavy equipment, information from industry experts, panel discussions on careers in welding, refineries and power plants; and educational opportunities available through MSU Billings.

The MSUB Men's and Women's Track and Field teams earned U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) All-American Team honors. The Yellowjacket women were one of five GNAC teams to earn the honor with a 3.28 GPA. On the men's side, they carried a 3.04 GPA and was just one of four GNAC teams to earn the award.

A Newsmaker Forum was held in July on the Downtown Campus, offered by the Billings Chamber of Commerce/Convention and Visitors Bureau and sponsored by The Residence Inn by Marriott. The forum allowed area business owners, employees and residents a closer look at the state of the City of Billings and Yellowstone County with informative insight into the City and County budgets, projects and goals – presented by Mayor Tom Hanel and Yellowstone County Commissioner Bill Kennedy.

MSUB Student Opportunity Services/TRIO sponsored a free "Return to Learn" seminar, especially designed for students who have been out of school for a few months or a few years but who are interested in returning to college. It was an opportunity for prospective students to learn about financial aid, study skills, college resources and career options.

The Americans with Disabilities Act celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in July. Cathy Copeland, Interpreter and Jill Stout, Program Assistant, assist more than 160 students a semester through the Disability Support Services Office. Copeland and Stout work with DSS Director, Trudy Carey and COT Program Coordinator Jennifer Woegens to keep pace with student needs. One of the biggest efforts are making sure those with sight impairments are able to have MP3 files of their textbooks. The Montana Center on Disabilities was established in 1947, as part of the public service mission at Eastern Montana College, to serve children with Cerebral Palsy and their families. After children with disabilities were integrated into their neighborhood schools in 1986, the center matured into a service entity to provide education and support for those working to create a fully inclusive society. Tina Hoagland, an audiologist and MCD Project Director, who has been with the center since 1985, said the changes brought by the Americans with Disabilities Act have ensured that children and adults with disabilities are not left behind and makes certain all students and adults have equal opportunity to succeed.

MSUB has been working with Noel-Levitz for guidance in developing more success with recruitment, enrollment and retention. The faculty and staff have worked diligently applying the goals and strategies set by Noel-Levitz.

The 2010 Autism Conference was held as MSUB honoring Taylor Crowe, special guest speaker. Taylor is an extraordinary young man who lives with autism, a college graduate, an artist and an advocate for all people with autism. Thirty-six of Taylor's original paintings were displayed on campus.

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**Summer Course Efficiencies** – This summer we focused on courses that we knew we were going to have a strong enrollment and we chose not to run 84 credits worth of low enrolled courses. When the numbers were all in we ended the summer within two FTE of last summer but we realized \$125,000 in salary savings. We are using this same model for the fall and spring. We are also reevaluating when our courses are offered so they will maximize our enrollments.

**Biodiesel Engine Test** - Recently, MSU-Northern's Bio-Energy Center partnered with Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) to conduct a comprehensive test to utilize 20 percent biodiesel blend for fuel in a switcher engine. BNSF is the second largest diesel fuel user in the United States and consumes 30 million gallons a year in Havre, Montana alone. This is a year-long project that would demonstrate the performance of biodiesel under adverse weather conditions in Montana. The locomotive engines will undergo the standard maintenance check every 92 days starting July 1, 2010 including oil analysis, fuel analysis, injector evaluation, engine performance, fuel consumption and durability. Bear Paw Development Corporation received a \$50,000 grant to help Northern with costs for the testing.

**Renovation** – We are currently in the process of renovating 3 chemistry labs in Hagener Science Center and replacing the boiler and the roof membrane. These projects are being funded through deferred maintenance and the American Recovery Act Funds. New Landscaping in front of Brockmann is finished and the project to cover the pool is moving forward. We have begun to renovate our Auto Diagnostics Building into our biodiesel pilot plant. This will allow us duplicate the entire process from seed to fuel. This facility renovation is being funded through a Federal Appropriation.

**Conclusion of Four-Day Week** – Montana summers are too short - This Summer Northern worked four 10-hour days so that our employees could enjoy more time outdoors and with family. By the end of the summer no one wanted to go back to a normal five-day week. We received great feedback and believe it was a huge success and plan to do it again next year. Our utility efficiencies are up as less energy was used during this period.

**Youth Build program** - MSU-Northern is pleased to run the Youth Build Program a second year. Last year the program had 17 students earn their GED and 4 of those students are enrolled in Northern's Trade Programs this fall.

**New Bus** – Northern and a local donor bought the former Havre Blue Pony Bus (50 Passenger Coach). This will help keep our travel costs down and make travel safer for our students. We plan to run the bus on the bio-diesel fuel which we will produce on campus from our Biodiesel Pilot Plant.

**New Fitness Center in SUB** – This summer Northern added a Fitness Center in the Student Union Building for students, faculty and staff. This came as a request from the Student Senate and was partially funded from student funds.

**Legislative Forum** - On September 30<sup>th</sup>, Montana Legislators from the Hi-Line will be coming to Northern for our first Legislative Forum. This will be a time for all to come together to discuss the issues facing our region. This session will help local Legislators formulate an agenda for the upcoming session.

**New Faculty and Administration at Northern** – This past year we have gained some very talented people, they are: Rosalyn Templeton - MSUN Provost; Lindsey Brown - Dean of Students/Registrar; Rob Davis - Director of Motorcycle Safety; Molly Netburn - CRRN (Clinical Resource Registered Nurse) at MSUN in Lewistown; Sarah Smith - Nursing Instructor at MSUN in Lewistown; Robert Anderson - Director of YouthBuild; Steve Newbury - Carpentry/Technology Teacher; Rebecca Brown - Asst Professor of Business; William Taylor - Diesel Technology Instructor; Pam Hillery - Tutor Coordinator/Instructor; Pam Civiletti - Assistant Professor of Nursing at MSUN in Great Falls; Linda Miller - Assistant Professor of Teacher Education/Elementary Education at MSUN in Great Falls; Juliann Keller - Assistant Women's Basketball Coach/Sports Info Director.



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MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY College of Technology | GREAT FALLS

The Great Falls community and MSU – Great Falls staff and faculty attended the **State of the College** address given by Dean Joe Schaffer during faculty Convocation.

Students who attain their **Associate degree** through the College have options to complete a four-year degree in Elementary Education, Computer Information Systems, or Business Management. Details regarding the course requirements are available online in the MSU - Great Falls' catalog.

Twenty-one students completed their **Practical Nurse** degree this summer semester and were honored at a Pinning Ceremony. Senator Jon Tester invited the graduates to provide input on what is working in the healthcare system and what is not. He commended the College, Benefis and the Northcentral Montana Healthcare Alliance for the innovative REACH project which used technology to deliver instruction to Choteau and Conrad medical centers and allowed six rural students to become Practical Nurses.

Students attended a two-hour program to help them gain the **Competitive Edge** to be successful in applying to limited entry healthcare programs on July 13 in Heritage Hall. Dr. Cherie McKeever, and her science faculty, organized the evening to help students be successful in college level science classes. Potential and current students attended.

In a partnership between Blackfeet Manpower, Blackfeet Housing Authority, Blackfeet Community College and MSU-Great Falls College of Technology, **disadvantaged youth on the Blackfeet Reservation are learning building trades** by renovating existing housing to improve energy efficiency on the Blackfeet reservation. During their first session in August, students learned about residential wind turbine installation and prepared the foundation and turbine tower site. The turbine and tower were erected on August 18. The students learned about residential solar installation during the following week, and, in mid-September, they returned to the renovated home to re-test its energy efficiency.

Enrollment has reached the cap of 14 students for the first semester of the **Sustainable Energy Technology (SET) program** starting this fall. There is a waiting list for the program. New equipment has been installed in the classroom and the SET lab area in the Skilled Trades building. The curriculum was developed by the four-campus WindMontana Academic Implementation Team and refined by the National Advisory Board. Jason Harding is the Director of the SET program. The immediate goal of the program is to produce wind energy technicians.

Sixteen students attended the first annual **Math Camp** that was held August 11 through 13. Valerie Smith, adjunct mathematics faculty, taught the course to help students move up a notch in their math skills prior to fall semester. The goal of the Camp is to improve student success in mathematics courses.

An agreement between **Northern and MSU - Great Falls** will take advantage of a new position, [Academic/Transfer Advisor & Student Support Coordinator](#). The Advisor will reside in Student Central and will be responsible for assisting Montana State University-Great Falls in meeting its transfer mission by working closely with students as they navigate to and through programs at the College that will then connect with degree programs offered through Northern in Great Falls. This position will have a range of responsibilities, primarily in the areas of advising and transfer, but also in student recruitment. The Adviser will work closely with staff and faculty on the MSU-Great Falls campus as well as the MSU-Northern campus. The new Transfer Advisor is expected to be hired by the end of September.

The College is now **tobacco free**. The 'Smoking Zone,' a shelter for those who wish to use tobacco is installed east of the main facility.