



CAMPUS REPORT | Board of Regents Meeting | March 6-7, 2014 | Great Falls



MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY | BOZEMAN  
President Waded Cruzado

MSU was among just 234 schools to earn a spot on U.S. News & World Report's inaugural list of best colleges for veterans. The list was developed to help veterans pursue a college education under the Post-9/11 GI Bill and only included institutions that are certified for the GI Bill and participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program and Service members Opportunity Colleges Consortium.

MSU athletes are increasingly majoring in science and engineering fields; currently, 37 percent (143 of 383) of student-athletes at MSU are enrolled in STEM majors, nearly a 50-percent increase since 2010.

A major Antarctic expedition that involved MSU researcher John Priscu and other MSU faculty, students and staff was one of Discover magazine's top 100 science stories of 2013.

MSU's College of Nursing won a three-year, \$1.08 million grant from the Indian Health Service that will enable it to continue providing support to American Indian and Alaska Native students through its Caring For Our Own program.

MSU is part of a four-state consortium that was awarded nearly \$10 million to investigate the challenges of turning beetle-killed trees into biofuel by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The grant will enable the academic, industry and government consortium led by Colorado State University to study the major challenges that limit the use of beetle-killed trees in the Rockies as biofuel. MSU's portion will be almost \$663,500 and will primarily involve mapping dead trees throughout the northern Rockies and working with rural landowners, and officials to evaluate potential acquisition and refinery locations.

This spring MSU's the College of Letters and Science will offer five night courses that are a part of the core curriculum. The new CORE at Night program offers a variety of CORE 2.0 courses on the Bozeman campus in the evenings to provide greater access to non-traditional students and those who work during the day.

Justin Runyon, an MSU graduate and entomologist on the MSU campus, was one of 102 researchers chosen to receive the latest Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE) and one of only three recipients nominated through the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The award recognizes his "outstanding and sustained accomplishments that significantly increased knowledge in bio control of invasive species, chemical ecology of plants, and insect diversity and taxonomy."

The National Science Foundation awarded a five-year, \$2 million grant for a collaborative study led by MSU virologist and plant science, plant pathology professor Mark Young. The funding will enable Young and his team to explore the role of viruses in shaping ecosystems in the hot springs of Yellowstone National Park.

Regents Professor Anne Camper was named a 2013 Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors. Camper, whose patents relate to water and food safety and the detection of potential bioterrorism agents, was one of just 143 innovators selected in 2013.

RightNow Technologies founder Greg Gianforte has pledged to give Montana State University more than \$200,000 over three years to initiate three programs to recruit students into computer science and help meet the state's demand for high-tech workers.

MSU's College of Education earned the No. 1 spot on a list ranking the highest number of graduates from postsecondary institutions in the state in the fields of education and teaching. The Online College Database ranks colleges in every state and MSU came out as the highest ranked institution in the "Shaping the Next Generation" category.



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MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY | BILLINGS

The MSUB international branch of the English Honor Society sponsored the *2013 Writers Roundup* in conjunction with the Family Tree Center's Festival of Trees. The Montana Writers Roundup is presented annually by Sigma Tau Delta, a non-profit academic organization, who uses the proceeds to support a variety of English scholarships, awards and activities.

City College at Montana State University Billings was granted recertification from the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF) for the Auto Program thanks to the great effort with the recent site visit and with the application for recertification.

Thanks to the funding by the Montana Legislature in support of veterans returning to school, MSUB and City College used a portion of their proceeds to convert/renovate lounge areas to accommodate our veterans. Trudy Carey, Director of Disability Support Services, said MSUB has almost 300 veterans enrolled in classes and stated the number is expected to double over the next five years. In addition to the lounges, Trudy said a Veteran Support Coordinator position will be filled by the first of the year to assist veterans returning to the classroom.

Guest Lecturer, Dr. Guadalupe Correa-Cabrera, Associate Professor of Political Science and Department Chair of Government at the University of Texas at Brownsville, shared her areas of expertise on Mexico-U.S. relations, border security, immigration and organized crime. She is the author of several academic articles and a book titled *Democracy in "Two Mexicos": Political Institutions in Oaxaco and Nuevo Leon*.

Author and flight enthusiast, W. Scott Olsen, held a free lecture and reading from his newly released book, *Prairie Sky*. MSUB Department of Art's Northcutt Steele Gallery welcomed visiting artist Kim William Fink. Fink's exhibition, *Works on Paper*, featured a series of mixed-media prints offering a visual diary or personal "travelogue" of his journey through the image-laden landscapes of the late 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. Dr. James Barron, Associate Professor, Biological and Physical Sciences, presented his exciting research on "Lizards, Roaches and Dace, Oh My."

MSUB student Tracy Thormahlen, a second-year computer systems technology student, has advanced to the third and final round in the Cisco NetRiders North America Competition. The competition draws students throughout the world, testing postsecondary-level students' networking and information technology skills through a series of online exams and simulation activities. Bruce Brumley, City College Computer Systems Technology Instructor, said, "What's even more noteworthy is that the top two scorers in Montana were both females, both of non-traditional ages, and in a non-traditional field, which is a tremendous accomplishment."

Outdoor Adventure Leadership and Rec Activities auctioned the "First Ascent" of the new MSUB Climbing Wall to the highest bidder during their open house. During the open house, the winner and the sponsored student made the "official" first ascent.

In preparation for the holiday season, student employees of Housing & Residential Life collected items for the Women and Families Shelter of Billings.



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MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY | NORTHERN

**New Provost** - Dr. William Rugg has been submitted for Board of Regents' approval to serve as the new Provost and Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs for MSU-Northern. Dr. William Rugg has most recently served as the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, where he also held the academic rank of professor. He has more than 35 years of experience in higher education. Rugg has a Ph.D. degree in Higher Education Administration and Student Services from The University of Mississippi, M.S. degree in Speech Communication and Broadcasting from Utah State University, and a B.A. degree in English and Theatre from Barrington College.

**Emergency Notification System** - MSU-Northern has recently adopted a new Emergency Notification Policy which outlines 11 ways the campus plans to communicate with its students, staff, and faculty during emergency situations.

**Computer & Wireless Network Upgrades** – Most of the equipment for our technology upgrades has been ordered and is starting to arrive. This upgrade will give us six new smart classrooms, four mobile smart carts, and will upgrade all lab and classroom computers five years old or older. It will allow us to expand our wireless network on the Havre campus including the residence halls.

**Coach of the Year** - Our Skylights Volleyball Coach Bill Huebsch received the Coach of the Year award for the NAIA Northwest Region. Huebsch is the first Northern Volleyball Coach to receive this award.

**Rodeo Fundraiser** - The MSU-Northern Rodeo Booster Club and team held their annual Cowboy Christmas Dinner/Auction. The event is the rodeo team's primary fundraiser and attracted 320 people this year and brought in almost \$35,000.

**Campus Updates**- The new wall that designates The Northern Montana Plains Indian Museum in the Vande Bogart Library was donated and built by Clausen & Sons General Contractors and Doll's Glass. The Armory Gymnasium received a new wheelchair lift which will improve access to the activities in the gym. Morgan Hall received new doors for the 4th and 7th floor exits.

**Student Success Center Results** - Throughout the 2013 fall semester (the Center's first semester of operation), 77 students signed in at the tutoring tables. About a third of those students (24) students signed in only one time, while the rest (53 students) came back for tutoring more than once.

**New Librarian** - Belinda Potter received her Master's Degree in Library and Information Science from Valdosta State University in Valdosta, Georgia and is now Northern's Instruction/Reference Librarian.

**Miss Rodeo Montana Queen** - Laramie Pursley, an Agriculture Operations Technology student was named the 2014 Miss Rodeo Montana Queen. Pursley is a member of MSUN's rodeo team, specializing in barrel racing. She plans to compete in the Miss Rodeo America pageant.

**P.E.O Fundraiser** - The Philanthropic Educational Organization (P.E.O.) held their 7<sup>th</sup> annual Wine and Microbrew Gala. The proceeds are going towards MSU-Northern and national scholarships for women. Currently three of our students are enjoying the benefits of a P.E.O. scholarship.

**Spring Career Fair** – On February 11, Northern hosted its Spring Career Fair. Students had the opportunity to meet with 26 employers who were looking for students from almost every discipline on campus.

**New Registrar** - Alisha Schroeder has been promoted from Interim Registrar to Registrar.



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GREAT FALLS  
COLLEGE  
MONTANA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY | GREAT FALLS

**Susan Cooper** and the Dietetic Technician students participated with the Missoula City/County Health Department at the Montana Special Olympics. They conducted bone scans on the athletes and provided them with healthy diet options. Thank you to Susan and her students for representing GFC MSU at this wonderful community event.

Several students from GFC MSU's health sciences programs participated in the Special Olympics "**Polar Plunge**" during the annual Great Falls Christmas Stroll. Teams participating included the dental students-GFC MSU Molar Bears, the respiratory students-It Snot Easy Being This Cool, and the LPN students-Public Enemas #1. Combined, these students raised over \$3,000 for the Special Olympics!

GFC MSU welcomed **Michael Campbell** as the veterans' success coach. Campbell has 23 years of U.S. Air Force military experience. He serves as an advocate for veteran and military students, develop a peer mentoring program, serve as a liaison between students and campus and community resources, oversee the Veterans Center, coordinate activities to honor veterans and be a "go to" person for students who are veterans.

Governor Steve Bullock appointed **Dr. Lisa B. Flowers**, GFC MSU Development Director, to the Private Land Public Wildlife Advisory Council.

GFC MSU held its 16<sup>th</sup> annual **College in a Day** on Jan. 6. 180 students from 20 area high schools attended. This event offers information on careers in business and healthcare as well as transfer, distance learning, and financial aid options.

GFC MSU held an event on January 16<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the legacy of **Martin Luther King, Jr.** and the Civil Rights Movement. The event included a broadcast of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech, a historical perspective on the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. shared by Dr. Darryl Stevens, and the view from a professional African-American Woman presented by Sandra Heyward, RN MSN.

On January 25, GFC MSU hosted the 2nd Annual Great Falls **Project Homeless Connect**. The annual event provides a single location where nonprofit medical and social service providers collaborate to serve the homeless with comprehensive, holistic services and is free and open to anyone who is having trouble making ends meet, worried about losing their home, or homeless. This year's event was a huge success thanks to the leadership of the College's Dental Hygiene students and faculty. In addition to faculty, staff, student and community volunteers, approximately 25 airmen from Malmstrom Air Force Base volunteered their time serving food and guiding guests to the various service locations at the event.

In commemoration of **Black History Month**, Cynthia Stevens, GFC MSU Fine Arts and Humanities Faculty, and Chris Benson, Mt. Olive Church Choir Director, coordinated information displays and presentations throughout February.

**Donald P. Fish**, GFC MSU adjunct faculty and Native American traditionalist, presented Issksiniip cultural trainings to the campus and community during January and February. He focused on the myths, stereotypes and conditioning of Native Americans; the creation of Montana reservations; the essential understanding regarding Montana Indians; the Native American religion; and trans-generational and historical trauma.

The GFC MSU **Development Board** has raised 11 endowed student scholarships (\$25,000 each), increased contributions for a faculty and staff professional development endowment and a future program development endowment, and have received local business support for scholarships for dual credit students in welding and construction.

GFC MSU hosted the **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Higher Education Celebration** and Transfer Fair on January 30<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the Great Falls Chamber of Commerce's Business After Hours. The event celebrated the many education opportunities available in the region. Present at the event were the University of Great Falls, UM Western, MSU-Billings, MSU-Northern, MSU-Bozeman, Park University, Bright Beginnings Learning Center, Embark Credit Union, Student Assistance Foundation, Weaver Library, Adult Education, and Great Falls Job Service.