

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

BOZEMAN | BILLINGS | NORTHERN | GREAT FALLS COLLEGE

CAMPUS REPORT | Board of Regents Meeting | November 15-16, 2018 | Missoula



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On Indigenous Peoples Day, MSU announced a \$12 million pledge from the Kendeda Fund to help build a state-of-the-art, \$20 million [American Indian Hall](#).

MSU's fall enrollment hit a record 16,902 students, including 10,177 Montanans. Graduation and retention rates also increased and average student debt decreased.

[MSU Debut welcomed incoming students](#) with a variety of events during the first two weeks of the semester to get them involved with campus life. As part of MSU's 125th anniversary, more than 2,000 alumni and community members joined the traditional [freshman photo](#).

MSU spends more than \$1.75 million annually purchasing local food and ingredients [from more than 100 Montana producers](#), accounting for about a quarter of MSU's total food purchases.

For the fiscal year that ended in June, [MSU's research and contract expenditures](#) from state, private, and federal funding sources totaled \$126.5 million. It marks the fifth year in a row research expenditures at MSU have topped \$100 million.

In August, MSU's Initiative for Regulation and Applied Economic Analysis brought Nobel Prize-winning economist [Sr. Angus Deaton](#) to campus for a standing-room-only lecture on the link between income inequality and increasing mortality rates among white Americans.

MSU researchers, in collaboration with the National Alliance on Mental Illness Montana, are [developing software](#) to sift through millions of online academic articles on mental illness to find scientists the most relevant information.

MSU's [Environmental Analytical Lab](#), part of the Department of Land Resources and Environmental Sciences, not only helps prepare plant and soil samples for analysis but also provides undergraduate and graduate students with the opportunity for hands-on learning.

MSU's [College of Nursing](#) and the [Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services](#) together have received a [\\$1.7 million, four-year grant](#) to address oral health needs in young children across Montana, primarily in American Indian communities.

With lean manufacturing courses, [MMEC helps businesses](#) across Montana improve productivity and create a safer workplace.

Assistant professor Rebekah VanWieren, who teaches next-generation landscape designers, has been awarded the prestigious [Western Regional Award for Excellence in Teaching](#) from the Association of Public Land-Grant Universities. The award recognizes early-career faculty for their outstanding instruction.

MSU engineering professor Brock LaMeres received the [Distinguished Educator Award](#) from the electrical and computer engineering division of the American Society of Engineering Education. The national award honors excellence in teaching and wider impact on education.

MSU hosted the International [Symposium for Innovation in Rural Education](#), which gathered teachers from around the globe to discuss innovations in rural education.