

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

BOZEMAN | BILLINGS | NORTHERN | GREAT FALLS COLLEGE

CAMPUS REPORT | Board of Regents Meeting | March 7-8, 2019 | Helena



MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY | BILLINGS

- **MSU Billings had its accreditation reaffirmed in January** through its regional evaluating agency, the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, who praised the university's commitment and support of students.
- **Professor of Sociology Dr. Joy Honea will receive a William J. Fulbright Core Scholar Award** funded by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Honea will travel to Finland to conduct research on suicide rates and prevention strategies at the University of Tampere.
- MSU Billings introduced new housing and dining options for upcoming semesters after receiving unanimous approval by the Montana Board of Regents in January. Changes include a **20 percent drop in pricing for resident hall rooms**, a flexible "extended stay" program, and new dining opportunities. Student feedback and local market research helped drive these changes.
- **The search committee for the Dean of the College of Business announced the finalists.** They include Rasoul Rezvanian, Associate Dean of the School of Business at Ithaca College; Priscilla Romkema, President of Regional Health Foundation; and Herb Snyder, Chair of Accounting, Finance, and Information Systems Department, North Dakota State University.
- MSU Billings hosted its annual Power of One week, to support the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in January. This year's theme focused on **bringing awareness to the suicide rates of college students**. The keynote speaker was Frank King, a former Tonight Show writer who speaks about suicide prevention and postvention with a mission to begin the conversation about mental health.
- **City College and Great Falls College MSU announced a partnership to offer Surgical Technology** to students in Billings. Billings Clinic, St. Vincent Healthcare, and Billings Public Schools Career Center will also provide hands-on training opportunities and clinical locations.
- **MSU Billings Library and the Writer's Voice presented The National Endowment for the Arts/Big Read Program** with support from Yellowstone Public Radio. The program includes lectures, films, and discussions that celebrate Emily St. John Mandel's book "Station Eleven" during January and February.
- **At the MSU Billings Jazz Festival in February, a 20-student ensemble shared the stage with headliners** Matt Otto, a Kansas City jazz saxophonist, and Darrell Green, a premier drummer of the New York City and international scene.
- **Extended Campus offered a course on Heart Mountain Relocation Center.** Dr. Susan Gilbertz, professor of geography at MSU Billings, explored the cultural context, internees, camp workers, physical geography, and social geography of the location.
- **MSU Billings students and faculty were awarded an Excellence in Public Engagement Award** by the Coalition for a Secure Driver's License for their collaboration with the Montana Motor Vehicle Division to develop a media campaign for REAL ID-compliant driver licenses.
- Over 700 middle school students from Billings and surrounding areas attended **Lewis and Clark Week at City College** in January. The program presented by Our Montana provides students with hands-on demonstrations of the tools utilized by the Lewis and Clark expedition.
- **The Northcutt Steele Gallery presented Jennifer Eli French's "This Vibrant, Tarnished World."** The exhibition is French's intricate, personal interpretation of the futuristic novel, "Station Eleven" by Emily St. John Mandel.
- **The spring session for MSU Billings' Math Circle commenced** for students in the fourth to eighth grades, parents, and teachers. Math Circles are offered by mathematicians nationwide to present fun and challenging problems to students for the purpose of developing their creativity and problem-solving skills. The Mathematical Association of America and the Dolciani Mathematics Enrichment Grant fund these free sessions.
- **The 2019 Outstanding Alumni Award winners were announced:** Alumni Merit Medallion: Jerry Anderson; Distinguished Alumni: Carter Mollgaard and Krista Montague; Recognition for Exceptional Achievement: Harold Olson, Judy Povilaitis, and Darwin George; and the Ronald P. Sexton Award for Professional Commitment: Trudy Collins. The Friend of MSU Billings award will be announced at the ceremony on March 22.
- **MSU Billings and Billings Clinic Science Expo hosted a free workshop for students**, grades 1-12 in advance of the upcoming Expo March 22-23. This interactive workshop explained the scientific method and how to put together a quality science fair project from start to finish.