

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

BOZEMAN | BILLINGS | NORTHERN | GREAT FALLS COLLEGE

CAMPUS REPORT | Board of Regents Meeting | November 19, 2020



MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY BILLINGS

- **Higher student retention for fall semester, despite COVID-19.** Fall enrollment data shows an increase in retention and graduate student enrollment, specifically in all mental and behavioral health programs at the undergraduate and graduate level. At its official 15th class-day count, 4,000 students were enrolled, with 2,500 at University Campus and 1,500 at City College.
- **MSU Billings student named OCHE Research Fellow.** Grace Manchala, a graduate student in Clinical Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling, has been selected as a Fall 2020 OCHE Research Fellowship and award recipient. She is the first MSUB student to be selected for this award. As part of this fellowship, Manchala will design a specific project with her faculty mentors, which will be highlighted in the near future.
- **MSU Billings announces faculty tenure and promotions.** Ten faculty members and instructors have received tenure and promotion. Faculty in their fifth year of teaching and service are eligible to apply for rank and tenure. The following faculty members received tenure and were promoted from assistant professor to associate professor: Emily Arendt, History; Melissa Boehm, Communication and Theatre; Mark Earnhart, Art; Lynne Fitzgerald, Health and Human Performance; Ambrin Masood, Rehabilitation and Human Services; Matt Queen, Biological and Physical Sciences. Lynn George, Biological and Physical Sciences, was promoted from assistant professor to associate professor. The following instructors at City College received tenure: Lance Mouser, General Education & Transfer; Heather Thompson-Bahm, Business, Construction & Energy Technology; Victor White, Nursing, Health & Public Safety.
- **MSU Billings to increase student resources with five-year SSS/TRIO grant.** Montana State University Billings recently received funding for two five-year grants through the U.S. Department of Education's Student Support Services (SSS)/TRIO Program. Funding for the MSU Billings university campus is \$362,740 and City College is \$261,888 annually for the next five years, totaling over \$3.1 million. This is the first time City College at MSUB has received this grant which will provide important support services to 140 low-income, first-generation, and disabled City College students over the next five years.
- **City College students named 2020 Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise scholar.** Emmalith Phipps and Noah Thomas, students from City College, are two of this year's Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise scholars. Both join 207 fellow Phi Theta Kappa members from across the nation and will receive a \$1,000 scholarship. The Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholarship Program helps new Phi Theta Kappa members defray educational expenses while enrolled in associate degree programs. Scholars are encouraged to assume leadership roles by participating in Society programs and are selected based on scholastic achievement, community service, and leadership potential. Nearly 700 applications were received.
- **MSU Billings' Office of International Studies awarded federal diversification grant.** Montana State University Billings has been selected to receive an IDEAS (Increase and Diversify Education Abroad for U.S. Students) Grant from the U.S. Department of State's Capacity Building Program for U.S. Study Abroad. MSUB is one of 24 colleges and universities from across the United States, selected from 115 applicants, to create, expand, and/or diversify American student mobility overseas in support of U.S. foreign policy goals. MSUB is the only college in Montana to have received an IDEAS grant for 2020. The [Capacity Building Program for U.S. Study Abroad](#) is a program of the U.S. Department of State with funding provided by the U.S. Government and supported in its implementation by World Learning.
- **MSU Billings participates in disaster preparedness exercise.** Thirty-two volunteers from MSUB joined other members of the community at Billings Logan International Airport to take part in a disaster preparedness exercise. Every three years, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requires the airport to host a full-scale response exercise to ensure first responders are prepared and ready to respond to disasters that could occur at airports. This year, the disaster simulated a plane landing with a cabin fire and passengers aboard.
- **Temporary science and health labs ensure continuity of student hands-on learning.** The new Yellowstone Health and Science building is currently under construction, rendering its laboratories unavailable. Ten temporary labs have been constructed in the College of Education and in the Liberal Arts Building to ensure student labs can continue seamlessly until the completion of the new building. Student workers were primarily relied upon to get the labs operational for the student body in time for the start of the fall semester.