

# MONTANA

## TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

December 8, 2020

**TO:** Board of Regents

**FROM:** Les Cook  
Chancellor, Montana Technological University

**RE:** Campus Report for the January 4 & 5, 2021 Board of Regents' Meeting

- The university hired Michael Van Alstyne as the Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance. Michael has more than 20 years of experience in both the public and private sectors developing financial plans and budgets, driving strategic decisions, and implementing process improvements. Michael has managed finance teams and processes at Microsoft Corporation, T-Mobile USA, and the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation with the University of Washington. Michael has a bachelor's degree in economics from Stanford University and an MBA from the University of Southern California.
- Sarah Raymond, Director of Career Services at Montana Technological University, has been named one of the Continental Divide Chapter 2020 HR Leader of the Year awardees and nominated for the Montana SHRM State Council 2020 Montana HR Leader of the Year.
- Montana Tech faculty member Dr. Courtney Young has been named the 2020 recipient of the Antoine M. Gaudin Award for scientific or engineering contributions that further understand the technology of mineral processing.
- Montana Tech was named the best small college in Montana. The list, published October 24, was based on data collected from the U.S Department of Education and published by analytical news site Stacker.
- Montana Tech participated in the National Make A Difference Day by partnering with the Butte-Silver Bow Parks & Recreation Department to host a cleanup in the community on Saturday, October 31.
- Congratulations to Coach Zach Kughn and the first class of Oredigger runners. The Montana Tech men's and women's cross-country teams recently ran in their first Frontier Conference Championship meeting. The No. 20 Montana Tech men's cross-country team finished in fifth place in the final meet of the season, and the Oredigger women took fourth at Prairie Farms Golf Course.
- Faculty and students at Highlands College have been busy this semester making locomotive shaped smokers. This hands-on project saw 12 students

# MONTANA

## TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

develop their version of a train. The project was led by Dennis Noel, Welding Technology Instructor III. The train is an offset smoker that uses propane for the fire and a chip pan with hardwood chips above the flames to make the smoke.

- Montana Tech held our first-ever online 3-Minute Thesis Challenge (3-MT). The challenge saw eight graduate students compete for cash prizes and entry into the regional 3-Minute Thesis Challenge competition in March 2021.