

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

BOZEMAN | BILLINGS | NORTHERN | GREAT FALLS COLLEGE

CAMPUS REPORT | Board of Regents Meeting | January 6, 2022



MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY BILLINGS

- **MSUB offers childcare scholarships for its students.** MSUB has received funding for the Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) Scholarship Program. With nearly 40 percent of students at MSUB categorized as adult learners, the scholarship will provide financial assistance to student-parents looking to place their children in childcare during and after school hours. Currently, MSUB has partnered with two childcare centers in Billings that will subsidize childcare costs based on a sliding scale.
- **MSUB math professor encourages student understanding of concepts.** Tien Chih, assistant professor of mathematics, has reshaped the ways in which his lower division math classes are taught and graded to encourage students to make connections between the class and their future careers, regardless of their major. Students don't work out of textbooks and instead utilize a website created by Chih and his colleagues that generates random equations for students to complete and work through until they understand the materials.
- **MSU Billings sets students up for success in the music industry with new commercial music degree.** MSUB Professor Mark Fenderson, Assistant Professor Scott Jeppesen, and Department Chair and Associate Professor of Music John Roberts have combined their musical experience and expertise to create a one-of-a-kind music degree: the Commercial Music bachelor's. The degree focuses on teaching students the practice of creating new music; additionally, students are taught how to use recording technology, mix and compose music, understand music copyright law, and produce and promote their own music. The degree is the only one within a 500-mile radius.
- **MSU Billings student awarded prestigious international artist residency.** Terri Porta, a celebrated Montana artist in her last year of completing a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at MSU Billings, was recently awarded a month-long artist residency at the idyllic countryside setting of the Chateau Orquevaux in the Province of Champagne, France. The residency is funded in part by a Denis Diderot A-i-R Grant.
- **MSU Billings releases 34th annual Mountain States Poll.** Political science students conducted the annual poll in mid-October and made approximately 6,000 calls. The group received 204 valid responses to topics that ranged from the approval of elected officials to mandating the COVID-19 vaccine. According to results from the poll, Montanans were generally divided along political lines with the exceptions of disapproval of Congress and the United States' withdrawal from Afghanistan.
- **MSU Billings professor leads nine-day Smithsonian-hosted riverboat excursion.** Each fall, Keith Edgerton, professor of history at MSUB, leads a nine-day excursion on the Columbia and Snake Rivers that traces the route of Lewis and Clark. The Smithsonian-hosted excursion allows attendees to reflect on the history of the explorers, learn about the history of water navigation, and take in dramatic landscapes.
- **MSUB hosts over 300 elementary students for special women's basketball game.** Over 300 elementary students from Billings attended a special afternoon women's basketball game at MSUB. The noon tipoff allowed the students to fill the bleachers and watch their hometown team compete. The students brought signs and helped cheer the Yellowjackets on to a victory over visiting Montana Tech; the annual elementary school game demonstrates the strength of the partnership between School District #2 and MSUB.
- **Student triathlete qualifies for national championship.** Women's Triathlete Madisan Chavez has qualified for the Women's Collegiate Triathlon National Championships after placing in the top twenty amongst Division II competitors at the NCAA National Qualifier. She will compete at the national championships in Tempe, Arizona on November 13.
- **MSU Billings library department earns top Wellness Award.** The MSUB library has earned an MUS departmental Gold Award for the second consecutive year for their outstanding wellness initiatives and positive workplace culture during 2020. The library team remained collaborative and maintained a healthy and safe work environment despite COVID-19 by placing special emphasis on mental health, positivity, and connection.