



## Office of the Chancellor MONTANA TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

---

1300 West Park Street  
Butte, Montana 59701

406496.4868

Fax (406) 496-4387

lpcook@mtech.edu

To: Board of Regents

mtech.edu

From: Les Cook  
Chancellor, Montana Technological University

RE: Campus Report for March 10-11, 2022, Board of Regents' Meeting

- Stephen Malott has joined the Montana Tech family as Interim Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance. Malott served most recently as the Vice President for Finance and Administration at the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology (2014-2018, plus 3 months interim in 2019). Before that he was Vice President for Administration and Finance at America University of Iraq (2012-2014) and Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services at Missouri S&T (2001 – 2012). From 1981-2001 he was a Foreign Service Agent with the U.S. Department of State. Steve has a B.S.B.A in Public Administration from Georgetown University and a M.P.A. from the University of Southern California. Malott is filling the position vacated by Michael Van Alstyne who left in December to pursue other opportunities.
- Montana Tech received a \$4.9 million cooperative agreement with the US Army “Materials Technology for Rare Earth Elements Processing (MT-REEP)”. The initial installment of \$100K was awarded in January 2022. Montana Tech will use Montana as a model for finding and processing Rare Earth Elements (REEs) in an environmentally benign way, leveraging its longstanding expertise in geology, mining, mineral processing, metallurgy, and materials research. This program will lay the groundwork for economically and environmentally utilizing sound domestic REE sources to escape dependence on foreign REE sources and ensure America’s continuing strategic dominance.
- Montana Tech's Highlands College and Black Butte Copper (BBC) are partnering to provide a robust training program and pathway beginning with non-credit certifications through credited certificate and degree programs for Black Butte Copper employees. The training program will allow BBC employees the opportunity to receive a certificate or associate's degree in Mining Technology from Montana Technological University. The partnership has the opportunity to train as many as 240 employees. The three-phased approach will have clear pathways to academic credentials in the form of short courses and industry certifications, a one-year certificate of applied science, and a two-year associate of applied science in Mining Technology.
- Lorri Birkenbuel, associate professor in the Safety, Health & Industrial Hygiene Department, was named the 2021 Distinguished Industrial Hygienist by the Pacific Northwest Section of the American Industrial Hygiene Association (PNS-AIHA) at the Norwest Occupational Health Conference held last fall.
- Montana Tech is a member of the SAP (System Applications and Products) University Alliance. This partnership provides students with hands-on experience in one of the world’s leading Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems. Colt Pederson, a student at Montana Tech, recently assisted in NorthWestern Energy’s successful upgrade to the latest version of SAP.

- Occupational Safety and Health students, Blake Nichols and Hannah Oggerino, received scholarships from the Mine Safety and Health Conference. The award recognizes their academic record and was based on a submitted essay.
- The Montana Tech Underground Mine Education Center (UMEC) has received a Fletcher N3114-AD/E Narrow Vein Bolter from Sibanye Stillwater. Mining Engineering faculty and students will use the heavy-duty machine to install rock bolts throughout the on-campus underground mine and expand the Mining Department's ability to perform rock bolt testing and research. Fletcher Mining Equipment facilitated the donation for Montana Tech and donated technician time to refurbish the machine before delivering it to campus.