



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 January 3, 2023, Board of Regents' Meeting

- Montana Tech and the Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division, Keyport, entered into a historic cooperative research and development agreement (CRADA) on November 2, 2022. The project builds from, and leverages, over ten years of research at Montana Tech in materials and manufacturing for defense applications. The agreement will provide Montana Tech faculty and students opportunities to access advanced experimentations at Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division, Keyport, and expand their repertoire, including facilities in advanced manufacturing, failure analysis, materials process development, and experimentation. The agreement lays the foundation for Montana Tech students to be co-mentored directly by Navy Scientists and Engineers. In turn, Montana Tech faculty will collaborate in ideas related to advanced materials topics, and be included in conversations that provide insight into specific DoD challenges where research is needed to develop new technologies.
- Mathematical Sciences professor and department head Dr. Hilary Smith Risser was recently honored by the Montana Council of Teachers of Mathematics (MCTM) for her leadership in mathematics by receiving the 2022 Dean Preble Memorial Award at the MCTM annual meeting. The memorial award is given in memory of Dean Preble, who died of cancer in 1998. Preble was recognized for his unflinching support for mathematics education in Montana. His dedication to the mathematics teaching profession, his love of his students, his involvement in state and national mathematics organizations, and his devotion to improving mathematics education for all were unparalleled.
- The Sherry Lesar School of Nursing at Montana Technological University was recently ranked the #1 nursing program in Montana in the 2023 Top Ranked Nursing Schools listing by RegisteredNursing.org. The rankings are determined by comparing the past five years of first-time pass rate data for the NCLEX-RN test, a national licensing exam for registered nurses. Pass rates from the most recent test year are given more weight, and scores from five years ago are given less weight in the process.
- Three teams of Montana Tech students participated in the Pacific Northwest International Section (PNWIS) of the Air & Waste Management Association, Environmental Challenge held in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho on Oct. 1. The teams have one month to develop solutions to a mock environmental problem. They are judged on technological, economic, safety, policy regulation, and community involvement aspects of their solution. This year's Challenge required students to address the needs of a fictional town in Idaho struggling with energy demands as climate change lowered the amount of water available for a local hydroelectric dam. Montana Tech's team of Grace Mulholland, Jessica Harmon, Ravyn Goodwin, Mayah Lemke, and Benjamin Schreiber took first place.
- The National Science Foundation awarded \$4.5 million in collaborative grants to Salish Kootenai College, University of Montana, and Montana Tech. These awards will fund scholarships for high-achieving, low-income students pursuing degrees in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields. Researchers plan to use project data to better serve Native American and rural STEM students.