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To: Board of Regents

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From: Les Cook
Chancellor, Montana Technological University

RE: Campus Report for May 17-18, 2023, Board of Regents Meeting

- Montana Tech announced a historic and transformative gift from Ryan and Lisa Lance of \$31M, including \$1M to the Digger Athletic Endowment. At the May 2023 Board of Regents Meeting, we will request approval to rename our School of Mines and Engineering to the Lance College of Mines and Engineering. Ryan Lance earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Montana Tech in 1984. He serves as the chairman and chief executive officer of ConocoPhillips, the world's largest independent exploration and production company, since 2012. Both Ryan and Lisa have long supported the campus with service and generosity.
- Two Montana Tech students, Alyssa Plant and Koby Martin, were awarded 2023 Barry M. Goldwater Scholarships. Plant is a junior from Helena, MT majoring in Environmental Engineering. Her research is focused on the applications of drone-based imagery in water quality, aquatic species health, and mine waste reuse. After completing her degree, she plans to pursue a doctorate in Environmental Engineering. Her mentors include Dr. Raja Nagisetty, assistant professor of environmental engineering, and Montana Tech alumna and graduate student Richelle Carney. Martin, a junior raised in Helena, MT majoring in Civil Engineering, is focused on developing sustainable building materials, particularly concrete, using widely available biomaterials. This research is aimed at reducing the carbon footprint of building practices worldwide. Martin is mentored by Bret Robertson (Ph.D., P.E.), Liping Jiang (associate professor and department head), and Jessica Daignault (assistant professor).
- The men's basketball team recently completed the most successful season in Oredigger history with a 29-5 record and appearance in the Final 8 of the 2023 NAIA National Tournament in Kansas City, MO.
- Two undergraduate student teams participated in the 45th International Collegiate Mining Competition in Kalgoorlie, Western Australia on March 21-26, placing overall 2nd and 9th of 15 teams. The teams placed first in hand steel and jackleg drilling.
- At the 2023 Montana College Attainment Network (MCAN) Annual Conference in Helena, the Institute for Educational Opportunities was recognized with the MCAN Champion of College Attainment award because of their unwavering support of k-12 and college students, as well as for professionals.
- December graduates of the Sherry Lesar School of Nursing earned a 92.31% pass rate on the NCLEX-RN exam.
- Dr. Chris Danielson was selected for a Fulbright award to Hungary during the academic year 2023-2024. Danielson will lecture at the University of Pecs in the institution's Department of Literatures and Cultures in English on U.S. history and his areas of specialization in U.S. race relations, the civil rights movement, and U.S. foreign policy.