

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

BOZEMAN | BILLINGS | NORTHERN | GREAT FALLS COLLEGE

CAMPUS REPORT | Board of Regents Meeting | May 21, 2025



MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY | BILLINGS

In March, MSU Billings was notified by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities that our Fall 2024 Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review (PRFR) had been accepted and that the recommendation from the Fall 2021 Mid-Cycle Review had been fulfilled. We are looking forward to the Year 7 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness (EIE) visit in October 2025.

We are pleased to welcome [Dr. Lee Vartanian](#) as MSUB's new Provost and Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs. He will begin in his role July 1.

The 55th annual MSU Billings Powwow was held April 4-5 at the university campus. The event draws Native American dancers and drummers and hundreds of participants from across the Northwest.

City College drew hundreds of prospective students and community to a [Healthcare & Safety Expo and a Welding & Trades Expo](#) in February to highlight the various certificate and two-year programs available for students. Visitors discovered the range of academic and career options available at City College while touring the campus and meeting instructors.

In March, the Office of International Studies hosted a high-level delegation from Japan's Seattle Consulate. It was the first visit to Billings for Consul General Makoto Iyori and Section Chief of Economic, Culture and Information, Kohei Hase. The university has had strong ties with Japan for many years, centered around a partnership with Prefectural University of Kumamoto.

Outstanding faculty were recognized at the annual [Faculty Excellence Awards](#) banquet on February 25. Nominated by their peers, the "international team" from the College of Business were honored with the Walter and Charlotte Pippenger Excellence in Innovation Award. Students honored four faculty members they selected to recognize for teaching excellence.

The book ["Unfollowers," written by Leigh Ann Ruggiero](#), assistant professor of English, was featured as Billings Public Library Foundation's "One Book Billings" selection for the month of March. "Unfollowers" has received strong reviews since its publication in 2022. It won the Juniper Prize for Fiction in the novel category from the University of Massachusetts and was the winner of the 2023 National Indie Excellence Award in Multicultural Fiction.

The Department of Music's [2025 Jazz Festival](#) in January drew hundreds of middle school, high school, and college jazz ensembles. Those students performed and were adjudicated, and faculty and professional musicians held clinics on a variety of jazz-related topics of interest to students and educators.

Community supporters, alumni, and friends gathered at MetraPark in Billings on April 17-18 for the MSU Billings Foundation's annual Wine & Food Festival. The event raises thousands of dollars for student scholarships each year.