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To: Board of Regents

From: Les Cook
Chancellor, Montana Technological University

RE: Campus Report for May 20, 2025, Board of Regents Meeting

Dr. Joe Cooper, Vice Provost and Dean of Students, was honored with the **Outstanding Service to the Foundation Award** by the **American College Personnel Association Foundation** during its convention in Long Beach, California, this past February. The ACPA Foundation's mission is to provide philanthropic support for initiatives that advance research on college students and promote the professional development of student affairs and service professionals.

At the recent **Annual Dinner and Awards Ceremony**, the **Butte Local Development Corporation** recognized **Dr. Les Cook** with the **2025 Educator of the Year Award**, while **Ripple: The Center for Education and Ecosystem Studies** received the **2025 Non-profit of the Year Award**.

Ryan Lance, CEO and Chairman of **ConocoPhillips**, will deliver the keynote address at **Montana Tech's Spring 2025 Commencement Ceremony** on May 10.

From **April 10-12**, the **Montana Technological University Petroleum Department** and the student chapter of the **Society of Petroleum Engineers** hosted the 30th Annual **"Jocko" Evans Technical Symposium and Golf Tournament**. The event featured a range of alumni and industry speakers.

The **Oredigger men's basketball team** made history this spring by securing its **fourth consecutive Frontier Conference regular-season and tournament championships**—a first in the conference's history.

At the **Pacific Northwest ASCE Student Symposium** in Portland, Oregon, the **Montana Tech American Society of Civil Engineers Chapter (ASCE)** earned **third place** in the **Sustainable Solutions Competition**. In the challenge, students were tasked with developing a proposal to repurpose a 5-story commercial office building for mixed-use redevelopment. The team was led by captain **Evan Johnson** and included **Hanna Darne**, **Matthew Dange**, and **Skye Atkins**.

Three senior nursing students from **Butte**, **Nacole Sestrich**, **Megan Savage**, and **Maggee Nielsen**, delivered a **Rising Star of Research** presentation at the **Sigma Theta Tau Creating Healthy Work Environments 2025 Conference**. Working with **Theresa Rader**, Executive Director of the Institute for Educational Opportunities (IEO), and **Janet Coe**, Director of Nursing, they revamped the IEO peer mentoring program for nursing, resulting in increases in test pass rates from **80% to as high as 100%**.

For the second consecutive year, **Montana Tech** was ranked **#1 for Best Online Master's in Montana by Online Master's Colleges**. Montana Tech offers two fully online programs: the **Master of Science in Industrial**

Hygiene and the **Master of Project Engineering and Management**. The rankings evaluate factors such as graduation and retention rates, affordability, program accreditation, and student support services.

A new paper titled **“The Preparation of PLGA Coating on Nitinol Wire for Vascular Stent Applications”** has been published in the **Journal of Coatings Technology and Research** by **Montana Tech** alumna **Baylie Phillips** (B.S. Metallurgical and Materials Engineering, '23; M.S. Materials Science and Engineering, '24) and faculty members **Dr. Sudhakar Vadiraja**, **Dr. Richard LaDouceur**, and **Dr. Blaine Berrington**.

Ryan Lance, CEO of **ConocoPhillips**, and **Richard C. Adkerson**, Chairman of the Board of **Freeport-McMoRan**, visited campus to discuss the future of energy. Both leaders emphasized how Montana Tech graduates are uniquely positioned to address the growing global demand for energy.