

# MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

BOZEMAN | BILLINGS | NORTHERN | GREAT FALLS COLLEGE

CAMPUS REPORT | Board of Regents Meeting | January 14, 2026



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Codie Wahrman, Associate Dean of Student Engagement, led a successful Registration Rodeo Event on November 20. Approximately 100 students attended for a fun night of mechanical bull riding and line dancing, while also receiving assistance making advising and/or FAFSA completion appointments.

The Military Times annual "Best for Vets" survey has ranked MSU Billings as the No. 1 college/university for veterans in Montana and No. 2 in the Northwest. The Military Times program ranks colleges on how well they support veterans and service members based on academic achievement and services. MSU Billings has 281 military-affiliated students this academic year. That number is up 21% from the 2024-25 academic year.

Vanessa Bond, a student at City College, is one of 220 Phi Theta Kappa members named a 2025 Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholar, receiving a \$1,000 scholarship. The Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholarship Program helps new Phi Theta Kappa members (an honors society for two-year students) defray educational expenses. Scholars are encouraged to assume leadership roles and are selected based on scholastic achievement, community service, and leadership potential.

Paul Foster, Executive Director of the Office of International Studies, joined a delegation led by Governor Greg Gianforte to Japan and South Korea in October to present business and investment opportunities as well as highlight how Montana universities provide world-class educational and exchange opportunities.

Political science students conducted the 38<sup>th</sup> edition of the [Mountain States Poll](#) as part of the class, "Media, Public Opinion, Polling" taught by Dr. Hope Dewell Gentry, Assistant Professor of Political Science. Through online surveys and random phone calls made from a list of 7,000 Montana phone numbers, the 11 students in the class recorded 854 responses, collected between October 3 and 15.

Abigail Nagel, a senior majoring in elementary education, has been selected as a [Montana Space Grant Consortium](#) (MSGC) Student Ambassador for the 2025–26 academic year. This prestigious statewide role is designed to engage promising STEM-focused students in public outreach, NASA engagement, and science communication. She will train and deliver Space Public Outreach Team presentations across Montana.

Sioux Fast Horse, a mother of three and an automotive technology student at City College, was named to the 2025 Generation Hope Student Parent Advocacy Alliance. A national leadership organization, SPAA, supports student parents in sharpening their advocacy, leadership, and storytelling skills. This year's group brings wide-ranging experiences with a shared dedication to shaping better pathways for student parents.

MSU Billings' Environmental Studies program hosted its [second annual GIS Day](#) event in November in collaboration with the Montana Association of Geographic Professionals. The event recognized the importance of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) within the university and Billings communities, and featured presentations by GIS professionals and a hands-on "map-a-thon" activity.