



## Office of the Chancellor MONTANA TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

---

1300 West Park Street  
Butte, Montana 59701  
(406) 496-4868  
Fax (406) 496-4387

To: Board of Regents

From: Johnny MacLean  
Chancellor, Montana Technological University

RE: Campus Report for January 14, 2026, Board of Regents Meeting

**The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation** awarded a **\$310,000 grant** to **Highlands College's School-to-Work Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program**. The funding will support up to 75 high school students across Big Horn, Flathead, Gallatin, Glacier, Lake, Missoula, Park, Rosebud, and Yellowstone counties in exploring healthcare careers. Up to 40 students may earn a CNA license through the Foundations of Healthcare Certificate.

Renowned paleontologist Dr. Jack Horner collaborated with geologist and paleontologist, and former Montana Tech student, **Dr. Raymond Rogers**, along with the **Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology**, to publish *Dinosaurs of Montana (MBMG Memoir 70)*, a new foundational reference on Montana's paleontological record.

**Kathy Roth, PhD, RN; Stacy Phillips, DNP, RN; Nikole Kelly, MSN, RN; and Seana Ralph, MSN, RN**, faculty in the **Sherry Lesar School of Nursing**, published a scholarly article titled "*A Structured Approach to Prebriefing in Nursing Simulation Education: Setting the Stage for Effective Learning.*" The article appears in the November 2025 issue of *Clinical Simulation in Nursing*, an international peer-reviewed journal published by Elsevier.

The **Montana Tech African Students Association** hosted its **inaugural African Students Day Celebration on November 22**. The event showcased African culture through poetry, drama, music, dance, fashion, and cuisine in partnership with Sodexo.

Montana Tech received a **\$25,014 grant** from the **IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE)** to enhance electron microscopy capabilities and expand statewide access to advanced scientific instrumentation. The funding supports internet connectivity, hardware, cameras, a stereo microscope, and imaging supplies to enable remote access to the Hitachi HT7820 electron microscope via videoconferencing.

**Highlands College** instructor **Jim LeProwse** was named the **2025 Montana Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) Post-Secondary Professional of the Year**. The award recognizes excellence in career and technical education instruction, innovation, and community impact. LeProwse serves as department head for the **Welding Technology** program and has been an instructor for four years.