

# MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

BOZEMAN | BILLINGS | NORTHERN | GREAT FALLS COLLEGE

CAMPUS REPORT | July Board of Regents Meeting | July 9, 2026 |



MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY | NORTHERN

**2026 Commencement** - The Registrar's office reported that 266 students received a total of 309 degrees. Those numbers include 20 certificates, 123 associate degrees, 146 bachelor's degrees, and 20 master's degrees. The graduating class consists of 103 women and 163 men. This year's Commencement speaker was Jeff Ament.

**Powwow** - The 49th Annual Sweetgrass Society Powwow drew an impressive crowd during its two-day celebration on April 24 and 25. The student-led, student-organized event featured over 150 registered dancers, 11 drum circles, and at one point drew a crowd of more than 500 spectators.

**Retirees Honored** – MSU Northern held a retirement celebration in the SUB Ballroom for Dr. Mark Seiffert for his 32 years of dedicated service. A community reception was held for Chancellor Greg Kegel during the May BOR meeting for his 44 years with MSU Northern and 50 years of dedicated service in education.

**Alum Named Rural Teacher of the Year** - Monica Mattson, a graduate of MSU Northern's teacher education program, has been named Montana's Rural Teacher of the Year.

**Founders Excellence Awards** - 2026 Founders' Excellence Awards, honored William "Bill" Lanier, Kyle Leeds, and the late Terry "T-Bone" Mohn for their lasting impact on the university and Hi-Line community.

**Montana SkillsUSA Competition** – MSU Northern proudly sent ten students to compete at the 2026 Montana SkillsUSA competition, held at the Great Falls Fairgrounds. Northern students earned multiple medals across a wide range of technical and leadership categories.

**Student Scholarship Awards Ceremony Held in SUB Ballroom** – MSU Northern celebrated the achievements of its students during the annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony by awarding scholarships, along with the presentation of the 2026 Golden N Awards and Student Excellence Awards.

**Golden N Awards** - The Associated Students of MSU-Northern (ASMSUN) presented three awards to individuals who have made lasting impacts on student life, learning, and success. This year's recipients are Aaron Riggan, Nicholus Despot, and Dr. Valerie Guyant.

**Montana Student Volunteer Award** - Jalia Haley - Giard of Montana State University Northern was recognized with the 2026 Montana Student Volunteer Award. The award, presented in partnership by the Governor's Office of Community Service and the Montana Campus Network for Civic Engagement (MCNCE),

**Spring Fling Celebration** - The 21st Annual Spring Fling delivered another athletic fundraiser brought together more than 400 supporters in the Armory Gymnasium. The Mike Tilleman "One Leg Up" and the Shining Light Awards were given during that event.

**Northern PAS Club Attends National Convention** – MSU Northern's Post-Secondary Ag Students (PAS) Club traveled to Branson, Missouri, March 8–13 to compete at the national PAS convention, joining more than 550 students from 12 states as the only Montana chapter represented.