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To: Board of Regents

From: Johnny MacLean
Chancellor, Montana Technological University

RE: Campus Report for July 9, 2026, Board of Regents Meeting

Dr. Matthew Muterspaugh became the **Dean of the College of Letters, Sciences, and Professional Studies (CLSPS)** on July 1. A physicist and astrophysicist by training, he earned his Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and also earned an MBA from Tennessee State University. He joins Montana Tech from Los Medanos College where he served as Dean of the Brentwood Center and Distance Education. Previously, he was Dean of the Science, Technology, and Mathematics Division at Columbia State Community College and had leadership roles at Tennessee State University where he held the rank of Associate Professor.

Montana Technological University signed a **memorandum of understanding** with Battelle Energy Alliance LLC, the management and operating contractor for **Idaho National Laboratory (INL)**, to expand collaboration in critical materials and nuclear energy research. The agreement establishes a framework for joint research initiatives, workforce development, and academic partnerships with one of the nation's premier energy research laboratories. [Read more.](#)

Kollegio ranked Montana Tech as the **top college in Montana for return on investment**. The [ranking](#) recognizes institutions that deliver strong career outcomes and earning potential relative to the cost of attendance.

Jakob Nielsen (B.S. Mechanical Engineering, 2026) earned two prestigious research fellowships. The **2026 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship** (NSF GRFP) is a five-year award with three years of financial support with an annual stipend of \$37,000. **The Richard and Peggy Notebaert Premier Fellowship** is awarded to the top 1% of incoming doctoral researchers at the **University of Notre Dame**. It provides a stipend of \$46,000 to \$48,000 depending on program, on a 12-month basis for up to five years, along with priority access to professional development funds. Nielsen's proposed graduate research focuses on improving the sustainability of nuclear energy systems, including methods to recycle nuclear fuel and reduce waste through advanced reactor technologies.

Montana Tech earned the **Frontier Conference's George R. Bandy Memorial All-Sports Award** for the fourth consecutive year. The Orediggers captured Frontier Conference championships in women's basketball, football, and men's outdoor track and field during the 2025-26 academic year, while every athletic program finished fifth or higher in the expanded 12-team conference standings.

Associate Athletic Director **Mark Robertson** received three honors in the **College Division of District 7 of the College Sports Communicators Publications and Digital Design Contest**. His feature story, [Always Faithful: Jany Represents Montana Tech at Marine Corps PLC](#), earned first place, while [Just What You Do: Three-Sport Athlete Peterson Recognized as Montana Athlete in Service](#) and [Gutting the Elk: Orediggers Look Back on 1996 Football Semifinal Win Over Carroll](#) were recognized as runners-up. District 7 includes non-NCAA Division I institutions across nine U.S. states and two Canadian provinces.