CAMPUS REPORT | Board of Regents Meeting | Nov. 19-20, 2026 |

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY | BOZEMAN

Annual research expenditures at MSU topped $308 million, funding studies with statewide impact in areas such as prescribed fires, drought-impact forecasting, and quantum systems. The record-setting research supported the work of 1,348 students across all of MSU's colleges.

MSU enrolled a record 17,477 students in the fall, including the largest incoming first-year class in MSU history. The university enrolls more Montana residents than any other college or university in the state. MSU maintained high retention and graduation rates with its support systems for students on campus.

MSU has celebrated the grand openings of five new nursing education buildings across Montana, including four openings this fall, each equipped with a high-tech simulation center for hands-on learning. MSU is expected to graduate about 400 registered nurses each year, an increase of 100 graduates compared to previous years. Close to 75% of those nurses choose to stay in Montana for their careers.

MSU is helping retain Montana teachers in rural areas and reservations thanks to a $3 million grant from the National Science Foundation. The project is supporting more than two dozen Montana teachers via a six-year fellowship at MSU that includes tuition for a master's degree and the opportunity to exchange research with other fellows, among other resources.

In October, MSU's Interdisciplinary Institute on Artificial Intelligence hosted a national conference on "The Future of AI" that drew hundreds of attendees, including many from across the University System, to discuss the promises and challenges posed by AI in every discipline and field.

MSU shared research on water conservation, artificial intelligence and science communication with the town of Red Lodge as part of a new series bringing research with practical applications to communities across Montana.

MSU Extension hosted a pest management tour across eastern Montana to share up-to-date information with pesticide applicators related to drought, aphid management, seedborne diseases and more. The education program aims to promote public health and preserve the environment.

About 270 high school students from across Montana, many from rural towns with less than 20 school band members, rehearsed and performed alongside MSU's Spirit of the West marching band during a home football game. The annual Band Day event provides young musicians with mentorship and skills they bring back to their schools.

MSU marked the grand opening of Gianforte Hall, which provides access to state-of-the-art software and studios for students and faculty in computing-related fields. The space will drive interdisciplinary work in areas such as cybersecurity and music technology.

Parking lot improvements at MSU have added approximately 625 newly paved spaces on campus.