

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

BOZEMAN | BILLINGS | NORTHERN | GREAT FALLS COLLEGE

CAMPUS REPORT | September Board of Regents Meeting | September 24, 2026



MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY | NORTHERN

Interim Chancellor - Dr. Jennifer Brown was appointed Interim Chancellor. Dr. Brown succeeds Greg Kegel, who retired August 1st after more than 44 years of service to MSU Northern. Dr. Brown joined Northern as Provost in June 2023 after serving at Eastern Connecticut State University. Dr. Brown holds a doctorate and a master's degree in economics from the University of California and a bachelor's in economics from Weber State University.

Community and Economic Impact - Interim Chancellor Dr. Jennifer Brown highlighted MSU Northern's significant educational and economic contributions to the Hi-Line and Montana during the Independence Bank Community Connections Conference.

NAGPRA Training – MSU Northern faculty and staff strengthened the university's capacity to protect Native American cultural heritage and fulfill its responsibilities under NAGPRA through specialized regional training.

Undergraduate Research – Dr. Chad Spangler and student assistants advanced undergraduate research opportunities through a summer study examining metabolic patterns among women in the Hill County community.

NSF Grant Expands Hands-On Science Education - A \$99,612 National Science Foundation grant is expanding MSU-Northern's capacity for hands-on scientific education and undergraduate research through modern laboratory and field equipment. Some of this equipment will include a polarizing microscope and a portable X-ray Fluorescence machine for chemical compositions.

AgWest Grant - The MSU Northern Foundation secured a \$3,500 AgWest Farm Credit grant to support Morgan Hall renovations, which are designed to improve student living spaces, strengthen campus life, and support recruitment and retention.

Interim Dean of CASE - Dr. Curtis Smeby was appointed Interim Dean of the College of Arts, Sciences & Education, providing experienced leadership and stability while the university conducts a national search for a permanent dean.

Greg and Sherry Kegel Scholarship - The Greg and Sherry Kegel Scholarship creates a lasting avenue for supporting MSU Northern students and extending the Kegels' decades-long legacy of investment in student opportunity and success.

Summer Campus Improvements - Several improvement projects were completed over the summer in preparation for the new academic year, including newly refinished tennis and pickleball courts, which are free and open to the public. The project transformed the university's outdoor courts from two tennis courts to one newly refinished tennis court and two dedicated pickleball courts. Funding for the project was made possible through a partnership between the Associated Students of MSUN (ASMUS) and the Natalie Patrick Foundation.

The exterior of the gym complex also received a much-needed fresh coat of paint, incorporating the same color scheme used on the residence halls to create a more cohesive look across campus. In addition, the Automotive Technology building received a new metal roof.