

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

- The Fine Arts Department of the University of Montana Western announced the 2026-2027 Bank of Commerce Performing Arts Series.
- Montana Western Athletics, in collaboration with the UMW Foundation and Alumni Office, announced the 2026 Bulldog Athletics Hall of Fame inductees: A.J. Wilson, Ben Snipes, Brandon Brown, Josh Shrum, Kevin Engellant, Glen Johnson, and the 2001–02 and 2002–03 Montana Western Women's Basketball Teams to be honored on September 19, 2026.
- UMW alumnus Dr. Dilan Starkel served as the guest speaker for the 2026 Legacy Plaza Celebration, welcoming Montana Western's newest students. A 2016 biology graduate, Starkel earned his Doctor of Dental Surgery degree and now operates dental practices in Dillon and Libby.
- UMW Professor Emeritus O. Alan Weltzien received the Heritage Keeper Award from the Montana Historical Society for his contributions to Montana's history and cultural heritage, including his work preserving and promoting the legacy of authors Norman Maclean and Thomas Savage.
- UMW student Neleh Bergstrom co-authored a peer-reviewed research paper on electrical signaling in Venus flytraps, turning a freshman class project into published research.
- Montana Western welcomed new first-year and transfer students to campus for New Student Orientation, featuring community-building activities, campus resource sessions, and events including Convocation, the Legacy Plaza Ceremony, and a Welcome BBQ.
- Former UMW biology professor Dr. Daniel G. Block's newly published memoir, Trail Creek: A North Fork Saga, chronicles his and GeRayne Block's years homesteading in Montana's North Fork wilderness and preserves their story for future generations.
- UMW and the Women's Resource Center partnered on After the Quiet, a community monologue production exploring healing and resilience after domestic violence through the experiences of survivors.
- Eight talks from UMW's 2026 TEDx conference were published on the TEDx Talks YouTube channel, showcasing research and ideas from speakers connected to the campus and local community.
- UMW alumnus Isaiah Powell, Class of 2026, established the Cheeki Skrub Scholarship to help ease financial burdens for Montana Western students, awarding its first \$1,000 scholarship for the 2026–27 academic year to Tyler Raine, a senior majoring in Physical Education K–12 with a minor in History. Tyler is a member of the Bulldog Track team and is actively involved in campus activities.