



CAMPUS REPORT | Board of Regents Meeting | November 20 - 21, 2014 | Missoula



MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY | BOZEMAN
President Waded Cruzado

MSU set a new enrollment record with 15,421 students attending classes this fall. The 2014 MSU headcount is up 127 students, or one percent, from last year's record of 15,294 students. It is the eighth time in the last nine years that MSU has set an enrollment record.

The average SAT score for first-time freshmen who enrolled full-time at MSU this fall is 1720, while their average ACT score is 25.3. The average high school grade point average for the same group is 3.43. Those figures are the highest reported at MSU since 1990, which is the last year for which data is readily available.

MSU has been recognized for its commitment to diversity by two publications. MSU was named one of the nation's top 100 institutions for awarding degrees to Native American students by *Diverse Issues in Higher Education*. And MSU was one of only 83 institutions from across the nation to receive the 2014 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity, or HEED, award from [INSIGHT Into Diversity](#) magazine.

The Montana INBRE Program directed by MSU has received an \$18 million grant from the National Institutes of Health. The new grant will allow the program to continue another five years and build on the successes it has had since it began in 2001. The program is designed to enhance biomedical research and involves 13 tribal colleges, community colleges and universities. MSU professor Allen Harmsen is director of the program.

Montana State University Extension celebrated its centennial, a celebration of 100 years of reaching out and serving the citizens of Montana, by providing unbiased, research-based education and information.

The state of Montana has been selected to receive a \$300,000, two-year grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to help continue its work to build a more highly educated, diverse nursing workforce. The grant will be made to the Montana Office of Rural Health and Area Health Education Center in the MSU College of Nursing.

Towne's Harvest Garden, MSU's student-initiated farm and community-supported agriculture project, received a commendation from the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities as an exemplary outreach and engagement project.

MSU has received a new \$5.4 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to conduct research to understand emerging diseases and diseases spread from animals to humans and then develop therapies to fight them. MSU professor Mark Quinn is the project's principal investigator.

MSU researcher Eric Boyd and MSU students will be a part of a new \$7 million, five-year project to investigate the origins and future of life in the universe, funded by NASA. Scientists from a variety of disciplines and institutions will work together to understand how rocks and water interact at low temperatures to release energy capable of supporting microbial life.

MSU honored its dedicated classified and professional employees who have served the university for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 or more years during the first annual Years of Service ceremony. The celebration was held Oct. 10.

Jessi Smith, MSU psychology professor, has been selected for the Champions Board of the National Girls Collaborative Project. NGCP is a national effort that brings together organizations throughout the U.S. that are committed to informing and encouraging girls to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.