

# MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

BOZEMAN | BILLINGS | NORTHERN | GREAT FALLS COLLEGE



**CAMPUS REPORT** | Board of Regents Meeting | September 14-15, 2016 | Billings

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[Fifty-one Montana high school seniors](#) have been selected for their effort and potential as the inaugural class of Montana State University's [Hilleman Scholars Program](#), named after one of the state's most influential, but least known, native sons.

For the third year running, MSU earned a spot on the CWTS Leiden Ranking for 2016, which ordered the 842 universities in the world with the [largest contributions in international scientific journals](#).

MSU was named one of the country's [best universities for Native students](#) by [Indian Country Today](#).

Six MSU graduates received NSF Graduate Research Programs Fellowships:

- Michael Ruiz, a 2016 graduate of MSU, will attend Harvard University to study how cell and tissue mechanics impact the evolution of human bodies.
- Kristen Emmett, a doctoral student in MSU's [Department of Ecology](#), will receive an annual stipend of \$34,000 for three years to conduct her research.
- Eric Troyer, a 2016 graduate of MSU's [Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering](#), will study the role of microorganisms in remediating harmful chemicals from groundwater.
- Nathan Fritz, a fall 2015 graduate of MSU's [Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering](#), will research ways to improve the structural fibers used in composite materials.
- Sarah Mailhiot, a doctoral student in the [Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering](#), has been awarded a fellowship to the NSF's East Asia and Pacific Summer Institutes fellowship program.
- Jeffrey Simkins, a doctoral student in the [Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering](#), was also awarded a fellowship to the NSF's East Asia and Pacific Summer Institutes fellowship program.

A Montana State University graduate student who wants to better understand early life on Earth and the potential for life on other planets has received a one-year, \$30,000 [fellowship from NASA](#).

The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) named Montana State University an [Innovation and Economic Prosperity University](#), a designation that recognizes the university's strong commitment to economic engagement and its work with public and private sector partners in Montana and the region.

APLU has named Montana State University one of five national finalists for the [2016 Project Degree Completion Award](#), which recognizes institutions that employ innovative approaches to help more students stay in school and complete their degrees.

Mark Fiege, a historian known for his writing on the environment of the American West and the country's national parks, was selected as the [Wallace Stegner Endowed Chair in Western American Studies](#) at MSU.

The [Teacher Education Program](#) at MSU recently [received full reaccreditation](#) for seven years through both Montana's [Board of Public Education](#) and the [Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation](#), the single specialized national accreditor for educator preparation in the United States.

On September 19, the [MSU Library will host a launch](#) of the archives of noted author Ivan Doig.