

# MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

BOZEMAN | BILLINGS | NORTHERN | GREAT FALLS COLLEGE

**CAMPUS REPORT** | Board of Regents Meeting | January 11, 2018 | Helena

---

## MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY | BILLINGS

- Former U. S. Senators, Max Baucus from Montana and Al Simpson from Wyoming, were on campus for a public forum on *Civility in Public Discourse*. The community event was sponsored by Yellowstone Public Radio and MSUB and explored how hyper-partisanship and the lack of compromise has crippled the passage of basic legislation as well as complex issues such as healthcare and tax reform. Both Senators provided an entertaining evening and discussed possible ways to bring civility back to the political arena.
- In December MonTech celebrated the first anniversary of their Billings location in the College of Education. The offices in Billings and Missoula are each staffed with a therapist who assists in finding the right device to overcome challenges. Their inventory includes trikes for children and adults, technology for low vision and hearing, communication devices, computer-access technology, school-related assistive technology, and more.
- MSUB recently introduced the Yellowjacket Excellence Program which is a scholarship program designed to make a college education more affordable for Montana students. Montana high school seniors planning to attend MSUB for fall semester 2018, with a 3.0 GPA or higher, are eligible for the Montana Excellence Scholarship. Students with a 2.75 GPA or higher and currently attending high schools in Central and Eastern Montana may also qualify for the Eastern or Central Montana Yellowjacket Scholarship.
- MSUB Native American Achievement Center hosted the 8<sup>th</sup> annual Veteran's Medicine Wheel honoring and celebrating veterans. In addition, they hosted the Native Holiday Craft Show to support the cost of bringing the Marita Growing Thunder Dress exhibit to the 2018 MSUB Powwow next spring. The dress exhibit honors missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.
- The Rays of Hope art donation was a great success this year. The project was the creation of Dr. Mara Pierce, MSUB Art Department Assistant Professor, in 2016 to help students create emotional connections with art and find a tangible purpose for art-making in the classroom and for themselves. Through the Fundamentals of Art for Elementary Teachers class, students are involved with a Service Learning Project to enact local compassion through art-making. This year nearly 300 hand painted sun-shaped clay tiles were donated to the Billings Clinic Foundation to provide hope and an uplifting mood for those undergoing the challenges of cancer treatment at the clinic hospital.
- The Jackets Soccer Team received five GNAC Player of the Week awards during the year, had seven players named to the all-conference team, and eight players selected to the academic all-GNAC squad. Alex Balog, MSUB Head Soccer Coach, was named the 2017 GNAC co-Coach of the Year.
- The Fire Science Program at City College was recently granted full accreditation from the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC). The accreditation is valid for five years and ensures the Fire Science Program follows the best practices and offers quality education and training to future and existing firefighters.
- In celebration of first-generation college students, MSUB joined institutions across the nation to celebrate and recognize the students, faculty and staff who are the first in their families to attend college. The initiative was held in partnership with the American Association of Colleges and Universities and the Council for Opportunity in Education.
- MSUB's music department presented a holiday concert featuring the Chamber Singers and the University Chorus. Two MSUB music students performed their recitals: Meranda Sargent, Junior Vocal Recital; and Belle Horman, Senior Horn Recital. Billings Brass performed a holiday concert on campus as part of the Yellowstone Chamber Players Concert Series, comprised of Mark Fenderson and Aaron Roberts on trumpets, John Dutton on horn, and John Roberts and Aaron Schendel on trombones.
- Wellness Specialist in Student Health Services, Christine Ditter, was presented an Outstanding Advisor of the Year Award at the BACCHUS of BASPA Initiatives General Assembly conference. She is compassionate for college health and committed to student well-being.
- Dr. Chris Harrison, MSUB Professor of Education, was featured in *Education Week* as a guest contributor for his article "Working Together: School District Leaders' Advice to Ed. Researchers."