

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

BOZEMAN | BILLINGS | NORTHERN | GREAT FALLS COLLEGE

CAMPUS REPORT | Board of Regents Meeting | March 8-9, 2018 | Dillon



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Montana State University [honored alumnus Norm Asbjornson](#) by naming the university's engineering college after him. Asbjornson, a 1960 graduate in mechanical engineering, has given more than \$55 million to MSU over the years, including the largest gift in the history of MSU, which is funding construction of Norm Asbjornson Hall.

MSU has been [awarded funding from several USDA programs](#) to help MSU Extension share information on emerging crop diseases with agriculture producers across the state. The grants will also help MSU detect new diseases and protect crop exports.

The [MSU Aviation Plus Business program](#), a joint venture of the Jack Jabs College of Business and Entrepreneurship and MSU Gallatin College, helps students not only train as pilots but also earn their business degrees at the same time. The program helps address a critical need, as the U.S. faces a shortage of pilots.

MSU [hosted the Montana FIRST Lego League](#) and FIRST Tech Challenge competitions on campus. The events task teams of elementary and middle school students from around Montana to build robots that compete in a variety of technical events.

A panel of experts from BestColleges.com and the nonprofit Campus Pride chose MSU as the [most LGBTQ-friendly campus](#) in the state thanks to the presence of advocacy groups and MSU's diversity programs, available training and counseling support services.

A couple who attended MSU in the late 1950s and early 1960s have agreed to give the university \$1 million to bolster early childhood education. The gift will establish the Sue and Don [Fisher Family Professorship in Early Childhood Education](#).

Six female professors at MSU and [Flathead Valley Community College](#) hope to increase the percentage of women agricultural scientists, engineers, and policymakers by way of a \$94,000 USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture grant, "[Empowering Women in Agriculture.](#)"

Student advisers, teachers, and researchers from across Montana State University were honored at its annual awards for faculty and staff as part of its [Spring Convocation ceremonies](#).

William Kleindl, assistant research professor in the Department of Land Resources and Environmental Sciences at Montana State University, [received a \\$312,000 grant from the National Science Foundation's Macrosystems Biology](#) and Early NEON Science Program.

MSU doctoral student [Arianna Celis Luna](#), who researches pathogenic bacteria and is active in teaching science to young students, has received the K. Patricia Cross Future Leaders Award from the Association of American Colleges and Universities [recognizing her as a future leader of higher education](#).

MSU photography professor Ian van Coller recently [published a large-format book](#), "Kilimanjaro: The Last Glacier," the second in his series of large-format, handmade art books about the recession of glaciers around the world.

[Accounting](#) students from Montana State University's [Jake Jabs College of Business and Entrepreneurship](#) are [offering free help preparing tax returns](#) for MSU students and individuals who made less than \$58,000 last year.