

CAMPUS REPORT | Board of Regents Meeting | September 11 - 12, 2019 | Butte



MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY | BOZEMAN

A Montana State University team led by Brock LaMeres, a professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, won a coveted spot on a [2020-21 lunar mission](#) that will be the biggest trial yet for the team's radiation-tolerant computing concept.

MSU [launched a new safety app](#), Safe Cats, for students, faculty and staff.

Eric Grumstrup, an assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, earned a [Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers](#), the highest honor the U.S. government gives to independent researchers near the beginning of their careers.

The career guidance site, Zippia, recognized MSU as the [top university in Montana](#) where alumni are most likely to land jobs. Zippia reported an 89% job placement rate for MSU alumni.

The MSU College of Nursing, supported by a four-year, nearly \$2.8 million federal grant, is expanding and [enhancing its Doctor of Nursing Practice](#) program to help address a shortage of primary and mental health care providers in rural areas.

A partnership between MSU's Department of Native American Studies and the Blackfeet Nation received a grant valued at \$2 million to support sustainable agriculture for the Piikani people. The grant, awarded by the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research, [supports projects identified by the Blackfeet Nation](#) as important to its sustainable agriculture efforts.

With the help from the Western Sustainable Agricultural Research and Education program, two researchers in MSU's College of Agriculture have conducted two years of tests on local farms to see if grazing sheep on vegetable or cover crop plants can help [improve soil health](#) while reducing artificial inputs to the soil.

Alex McMenamain, a doctoral candidate in the Molecular Biosciences Program, has received a \$100,000 fellowship from honey bee-focused nonprofit to advance his work studying [antiviral defense mechanisms in bees](#).

The U.S. Economic Development Administration has awarded \$750,000 to MSU's Prospect Montana, a new program to [promote high-tech economic development statewide](#). The three-year funding will support efforts to see high-tech companies grow and create jobs in communities across the state.

Raina Plowright, assistant professor in MSU's Department of Microbiology and Immunology, was [co-lead author of a paper published](#) at the end of June that sought to identify which of the more than 100 bat species in India may act as reservoirs for the deadly Nipah virus.

Montana State University has selected Jason Carter as the [new vice president of research, economic development and graduate education](#).

MSU has [nearly completed fundraising for its planned Bobcat Athletic Complex](#). The two-story facility at Bobcat Stadium will have study spaces, locker rooms, team meeting rooms and training and rehabilitation space. A 3,400-square-foot tutoring and advising area will also be created in the Brick Breeden Fieldhouse.

MSU faculty, alumni and staff [won awards at various festivals from Cannes and the Telluride Mountainfilm Festival to the Northwest Regional Emmy Awards](#).