

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

BOZEMAN | BILLINGS | NORTHERN | GREAT FALLS COLLEGE

CAMPUS REPORT | Board of Regents Meeting | June 30, 2020



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[SmartAsset](#) released its sixth annual study [on the colleges that give students the best return on their educational investment](#). The study [recognized Montana State University for the value](#) it provides to students in areas including scholarships provided, starting salary, tuition, living costs and retention rate.

MSU's Zariah Tolman is one of three graduating seniors in the country to win [Samuel Huntington Fellowship for Public Service](#) awards. Tolman plans to use [the award to launch Positivity Outward](#), to help rural youth in Montana and Wyoming connect service and charitable donations. Tolman won a Harry S. Truman Scholarship in 2019.

Gallatin College MSU [hosted its Career Spark](#) event for high school students virtually on May 15 to showcase high-demand and high-paying careers related to Gallatin College programs.

Nearly 74% of the [top academically ranked high school scholars](#) in Montana have indicated they plan to attend MSU in the fall.

MSU scientist Devin Orme received a [2020 National Science Foundation CAREER award](#), one of the most prestigious grants for researchers early in their careers.

Recent MSU graduate Stacey Robbins was recognized by the Weed Science Society of America for her [undergraduate research mapping](#) and modeling the spread of wiregrass, a new invasive plant in Montana. She was one of nine students nationally to be recognized.

To better understand why young adults choose to move to rural parts of Montana, MSU's Sarah Schmitt-Wilson and her colleagues researched their experiences living in rural communities and what they identified as the [benefits of rural living](#).

MSU film graduate Sasha Joseph Neulinger's film "Rewind," which was accepted into the juried Tribeca Film Festival in 2019, has now [debuted in 280 million households](#). The film tells his story of surviving childhood sexual abuse and was rated one of the best films of the year by Esquire magazine.

MSU [Jake Jabs College of Business and Entrepreneurship](#) and the [MSU Blackstone LaunchPad](#) hosted the inaugural [\\$50K Venture Competition](#) virtually in front of more than 150 people.

An interdisciplinary team of researchers from the Montana State University [College of Agriculture received a grant to develop an integrated management framework](#) for cheatgrass, an invasive species in Montana and a growing concern for agriculturalists in the Northern Rockies.

COVID-19 Information

More than 7,400 students at MSU are eligible to receive [\\$5.3 million in direct student aid](#) through the federal CARES act to help cover expenses incurred from disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The university is dispersing approximately \$300 to \$900 per student. Additionally, alumni and friends have already given more than \$100,000 to students in emergency grants.

A team lead by scientist [Blake Wiedenheft](#) was [able to detect the novel coronavirus](#) in samples taken at [Bozeman's Water Reclamation Facility](#), which handles millions of gallons of wastewater produced each day by the city's roughly 50,000 residents.