

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

BOZEMAN | BILLINGS | NORTHERN | GREAT FALLS COLLEGE

CAMPUS REPORT | Board of Regents Meeting | May 20-21, 2020



MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY BILLINGS

- **MSU Billings student named 2020 Goldwater Scholarship nominee.** Junior DJ McGee is pursuing a double major in psychology and biology with a minor in chemistry. He's uncovered his passion for neuroscience, specifically in the fields of research and education. His unwavering dedication to his work has named him MSU Billings' fifth Goldwater Scholarship nominee.
- **MSU Billings selects new College of Health Professions and Science Dean.** Dr. Kurt Toenjes has been selected as the permanent Dean of the College of Health Professions and Science. He served most recently as the interim dean for the college since May 2019. Toenjes has also served as the Biological and Physical Sciences department chair, the vice president of the MSU Billings Faculty Association, professor of Cell Biology, chair of the General Education Committee, and faculty representative to the MSU Billings Foundation Board. Three candidates progressed to in-person interviews and met with university faculty and staff in open forums.
- **MSU Billings Jazz Ensembles performed with renowned saxophonist Bob Sheppard.** MSU Billings jazz ensembles backed world-renowned saxophonist Bob Sheppard on Feb. 26 at Cisel Recital Hall. Sheppard has recorded and toured as a leader and contributed to hundreds of movie and television soundtracks including Chicago Hope, Monsters Inc., Seinfeld, King of the Hill, and Saturday Night Live.
- **'Jacket Giving Day banks big bucks for MSU Billings.** The MSU Billings Foundation held its second annual 'Jacket Giving Day on Feb. 20. The record-setting event more than doubled the dollars raised on the inaugural day of giving, raking in nearly \$116,000 from 401 donors at its conclusion.
- **MSU Billings earns Military Friendly designation for 2020-21.** MSU Billings has been named a bronze-rated Military Friendly School for 2020-21 by militaryfriendly.com. Ratings are made based on six categories of benchmark standards including academic policies and compliance, admissions and orientation, culture and commitment, financial aid and assistance, graduation and career, and military student support and retention.
- **MSU Billings launches 1+3 pathway program with Billings Public Schools.** They have joined forces to provide high school students an opportunity to complete their first year of college while in high school. A combination of specific dual credit courses, such as Advanced Placement, High School Connections and University Connections will count toward the 31 credits of general education requirements needed to start college as a sophomore. This program also offers education courses in high school for those interested in teaching, so they can graduate college in three years and start their teaching career sooner.
- **MSU Billings athletics scores big in community outreach.** The MSU Billings Student Athlete Advisory Committee in coordination with other MSU Billings organizations surpassed expectations in their commitment to community service and involvement in 2019-20. Currently, MSU Billings is first in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference and 14th in Division II for community service hours with a total of 1,700 hours.
- **MSU Billings is now site for Systems of Care Tribal Wraparound Project.** MSU Billings adds yet another American Indian service at its university campus. Montana Office of Public Instruction's Systems of Care opened their new location in the MSU Billings College of Education. The program provides culturally based comprehensive services in nine rural/frontier schools that serve reservation youth in grades 6-12.
- **Health Science Center Forth Worth and MSU Billings launch collaboration to fight national epidemic of missing and murdered American Indians.** Through an agreement, the Health Science Center (HSC)-based at University of North Texas Center for Human Identification and MSU Billings will together establish forensic capabilities to use DNA to resolve missing person cases and provide these resources to Montana law enforcement and tribal communities, to help them solve crimes and help prevent human trafficking. This partnership will also lay the groundwork for establishing pathways for MSU Billings students into HSC forensics, physician assistant, D.O., and M.D. programs, and provide unique research and internship opportunities.
- **MSU Billings honors outstanding faculty during annual Faculty Excellence Awards.** MSU Billings recently honored a group of 19 outstanding faculty members during the annual Faculty Excellence ceremony. Honorees were recognized for their exceptional achievements in teaching, scholarship, research, and for their service to the university and community.
- **MSU Billings blood drive surpasses expectations.** MSU Billings hosted two blood drives in March which produced 85 total products donated from 75 donors, 33 of which were first time donors. MSU Billings hosted another blood drive in mid-April to help reduce the current shortage of blood due to fears of the coronavirus.