

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

BOZEMAN | BILLINGS | NORTHERN | GREAT FALLS COLLEGE

CAMPUS REPORT | Board of Regents Meeting | September 16-17, 2020



MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY BILLINGS

- **Dr. Rolf Groseth has been appointed interim chancellor at MSU Billings** in response to the resignation of Chancellor Dan Edelman. Groseth previously served as MSUB's chancellor from 2010-2014 before retiring from a more than 30-year career working in Montana higher education.
- **Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities reaffirms MSUB's accreditation.** Following the recommendations from the NWCCU Seven Year Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Evaluation of MSUB in 2018, the institution recently received a glowing report from the NWCCU's virtual visit in April 2020, commending the university for turning the ship around in a short amount of time. As a result, MSUB has achieved the top recommendations from the NWCCU after implementing a new strategic plan in 2018 which included campus buy-in and hard work from many campus community members.
- **MSUB names director of Native American Achievement Center.** Sunny Day Real Bird has been named the new director of the Native American Achievement Center, beginning Aug. 18. Her experience includes middle school math instruction, grant writing, events and outreach, data, assessment and administration. She holds a master's in educational leadership from MSU, a master's in education curriculum and secondary education instruction in mathematics from University of Oregon in Eugene, and a bachelor's in elementary education with a mathematics minor from MSU Billings.
- **MSU Billings to provide holistic student support with new Advising and Career departments.** Advising & Career Services has become two separate units to fully carry the tenor of MSUB's Strategic Plan, *Students First*, throughout the institution. The goal of this separation is to serve students in a more integrated, comprehensive, and holistic manner from when they first enroll to when they enter their professional career.
- **The seventh annual Research, Creativity, and Community Involvement Conference (RCCIC) goes virtual.** The annual RCCIC is a celebration of MSUB student scholarship and for the first time, went virtual this year to ensure the health and safety of its participants. The conference showcased and celebrated student creativity, discovery, and research in fields such as exercise science, poetry, criminal justice, and geriatrics, and testifies to the resilience of students and their faculty mentors, as work behind their presentations continued after the campus shifted to remote learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Resident assistants excelled academically despite COVID-19.** Spring posed an unprecedented number of challenges for MSUB students. Some students remained living on campus since no alternate housing arrangements were possible. Despite spring's challenges, eleven Resident Assistants continued to fulfil their RA roles and excelled at their studies earning a cumulative GPA of 3.83.
- **New Yellowstone Science building to build stronger connections between students and faculty.** Associate Professor Alex Shafer looks forward to a unified College of Health Professions and Science once the new Yellowstone Science building is complete next summer. The new building will allow for greater collaboration between departments, students, and faculty. The new building will include a designated human performance lab space and human movement lab, doubling the current lab spaces, which will provide more space for improved instruction quality, additional equipment and technology, and additional student research opportunities.
- **Undergraduate student selected for national PLANTS program.** Kandiss Dowdell was selected to participate in the Preparing Leaders and Nurturing Tomorrow's Scientists (PLANTS) program and is the first student ever to be selected from MSUB. She will join a cohort of 12 undergraduates nationally with interest in plant science. This year's program was conducted virtually, and she presented her botany research to this national platform.
- **MSUB wins a Telly award.** MSUB recently won a Telly award, during the 41st annual ceremony, for the student designed and scripted "I Can" marketing campaign videos. The campaign was developed between two classes over two semesters, and features MSUB students, faculty, staff, and alumni on campus and in the Billings community. It showcases the vast opportunities students can experience at MSUB such as education, art, health, business, music, science, athletics, and student life at both the university and City College campuses.
- **MSUB earns "Veteran Ready" recognition.** The PsychArmor Institute, a nonprofit that offers critical resources to Americans so they can effectively engage with and support military service members, veterans, and their families, awarded MSUB with the "Veteran Ready" recognition. MSUB faculty and staff completed online learning modules which led to MSUB earning the "Veteran Ready" recognition. This recognition shows the commitment of faculty and staff to better support veteran students and support them and the military community.