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To: Board of Regents

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From: Les Cook
Chancellor, Montana Technological University

RE: Campus Report for the November 18 & 19, 2021, Board of Regents' Meeting

- Dave and Sherry Lesar provided \$7M to the nursing program, the largest gift in Montana Technological University history. This gift will transform Montana Tech in multiple ways including focused training on preparing students to work in critical access hospitals, scholarships, additional faculty and eventually a Masters in Nursing Education.
- Ryan Lance, Montana Tech alum and CEO of ConocoPhillips received the first chancellor's award of distinction, Montana Tech's highest honor.
- The inaugural Highlands College Trades and Tech Day welcomed 220 students from 17 high schools across the area to learn about opportunities in vocational fields including carpentry, auto maintenance, robotics, web security and more.
- Professor Scott Risser (Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences), Associate Professor Charie Faught (Nursing), and Associate Professor Sue Schrader (Petroleum Engineering) are co-investigators with project leader Bev Hartline (Emeritus) on a NSF Innovations in Graduate Education award to Montana Tech, MSU-Billings, and the University of Montana. The project will develop and test a suite of innovative strategies to improve the mental health and resilience of graduate students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.
- Professor Chris Danielson (Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences) has published a book chapter "A Double Edged-Sword: Race and Racism in U.S. Foreign Policy," in Impacts of Racism on White Americans. Benjamin Bowser and Duke Austin, eds., Sage Publications, 2021.
- Professor Pat Munday and Shihua Chen Brazill (MSU) authored "Coming Home to China: Margaret Woo's story" Journal of Modern Chinese History 15 (2021): 1-25.
- The 21st Annual Montana Tech Career Fair was a huge success, with a record number of employers and nearly 600 students attending the combined in-person and online event.
- The Research Office and the Office of Sponsored Programs were consolidated, effective November 1, to realize synergy between pre- and post-award efforts which often include similar contractual requirements and to increase cross-training among research staff.
- Kaden Cox, a student in the pre-apprenticeship line program at Highlands College, was invited to the 37th Annual International Lineman's Rodeo and Expo in Overland Park, KS, the premier event in the field.
- Montana Technological University student Baylie Phillips has been awarded the William Park Woodside Founder's Scholarship from the ASM Materials Education Foundation. The scholarship was established in 1996 by a gift from Mrs. Sue Woodside Shulec in honor of her grandfather, William Park Woodside. From Butte, Montana, Phillips is a junior majoring in Metallurgical and Materials Engineering with Chemistry and Mathematics minors. In the summer of 2021, she participated in a highly selective summer research

internship program through the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Materials Research Laboratory and Materials Research Science & Engineering Center. Phillips, the only student selected from Montana, studied additive manufacturing of net-shaped single crystal turbine blades.

- Researchers from the Montana Tech Nanotechnology Lab (MTNL) won several micrograph awards at the 64th International Conference on Electron, Ion, Photon Beam Technology and Nanofabrication (EIPBN). The contest included 50 entries from four different continents. Ph.D. student Luke Suttey won the Grand Prize for his micrograph entitled, "Pretzel Sticks." The micrograph depicts electrospun polymer filters that were fabricated during the pandemic to accommodate the increased demand for novel mask materials. Dr. Jessica Andriolo (ME, Research Associate) won the Most Bizarre micrograph for "Dr. Seuss Coloring Book", and honorable mention for "Where's Mickey." More info [here](#).
- Trevor Irons, Assistant Research Professor and PI, spent part of the summer in Svalbard (Arctic Circle) studying glacial forefield soil evolution in a joint effort with Colorado University Boulder, University of Utah, British Geological Survey, and University of Queen Mary. Montana Tech is the lead institution of the NSF grant.