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To: Board of Regents

From: Les Cook  
Chancellor, Montana Technological University

RE: Campus Report for September 21-22, Board of Regents Meeting

- Montana Technological University will receive an Upward Bound grant from the U.S. Department of Education for \$1,713,465 for the next five years to provide support to help low-income students who would be the first members of their families to earn degrees to prepare for and enroll in college. Montana Tech's Upward Bound has served 1,794 students over the last 26 years, with 88% graduating from high school and earning college degrees successfully, a rate exceeding the state and national average.
- Dr. Kenneth Lee, Ph.D., PE, started his tenure as our new dean of the School of Mines and Engineering on July 1. Dr. Lee has more than a decade of experience building affordable and accessible international programs that offer students of all economic backgrounds cross-cultural experiences around the globe. Dr. Lee comes to Montana Tech from Western New England University, where he spent 10 years as the founding chair of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department. He received all of his engineering degrees from the University of California Irvine and has postdoctoral experience from Princeton University.
- Highlands College, along with the Media Training Center, and Accelerate Montana, created a new partnership to offer Rapid Training courses to help Montanans take advantage of film production job opportunities coming to the Mining City. On August 13-14, the team offered three courses, Introduction to Production (which can lead to Production Assistant positions), "COVID Compliance Officer" (a new position for many sets and in high demand), and "Film Extra" (tips and information on finding ongoing work as extras).
- Dr. Chris Gammons, geological engineering professor, and Meg Doolittle, a recent graduate student, won the Cameron-Hall Cooper Medal. This award was established in 2019 by the Association for Applied Geochemists and recognizes the author of the most outstanding scientific publication in the journal *Geochemistry: Exploration, Environment, Analysis (GEEA)*. The paper, "Geochemistry of natural acid rock drainage in the Mt Evans area, Anaconda-Pintler Range, Montana, USA", studied the unique ecosystems of natural acidic streams contrasted with waterways acidified by mining activities. The duo will receive a medal and citation at the 29<sup>th</sup> International Applied Geochemistry Symposium in Vina del Mar, Chile in October and is available to read through Open Access via The Geological Society of London.
- Ronald Muffick became Montana Tech's Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance on July 1. Muffick is a seasoned manager with almost three decades of service to the Montana University System where he rose through the ranks, serving as a compliance officer, client services manager, director of

business relations and programs, associate director of the Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program, director of student affairs and financial services, and finally director of operations and administration for the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education. He earned his A.A. from North Idaho College and his B.A. in Business Management from Whitworth University.