

# MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

BOZEMAN | BILLINGS | NORTHERN | GREAT FALLS COLLEGE

CAMPUS REPORT | Board of Regents Meeting | May 17-18, 2023



## MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY BILLINGS

Native American [spring semester enrollment](#) increased 13.7%, largely due to a 19-percentage point increase in student retention. Military-affiliated student enrollment jumped 22% and experienced an 11.1% increase in student retention. Robust retention initiatives have been in place this past year with positive results. Programs in finance, computer programming and application development, athletic training, and psychology also experienced significant enrollment jumps.

Leslie Weldon has been named the new [Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance](#), having served as the interim since last October. Weldon has a long history as a leader in Montana higher education, having served in various roles and on various committees at universities and community colleges around the state and region. She also served as MSUB's Director of Financial Aid from 2009-2014.

Men's head basketball coach Mick Durham [announced his retirement](#) after more than 40 years of coaching. An alumnus of MSU Bozeman, Durham played 87 games for the Bobcats and is still one of the most prolific free throw shooters in MSU's history. He has coached high school and college basketball and served as the head coach for the Bobcats for 16 seasons, winning Coach of the Year three times. For the last five years, Durham has coached the Yellowjackets, leading MSUB to three GNAC Championship appearances and to the NCAA Division II Tournament.

Assistant Professor of Microbiology Madison Collins, Ph.D., is engaging students from multiple science and health disciplines in her [groundbreaking MRSA research](#) such as pre-nursing, pre-med, and pre-dental. Collins recently received an \$80,000 INBRE grant which will help move her research forward.

City College hosted a [Transportation, Industry, and Welding Expo](#) for high school students taking dual enrollment courses. Instructors and industry partners showcased careers available with certificates and degrees from City College, which many high school students can start while still in high school through MSUB's dual enrollment program.

Alumni Jon Laurent, Ph.D., was recently [inducted into the Montana Bioscience Alliance Hall of Fame](#) for his critical role in COVID-19 testing research during the COVID-19 pandemic. Laurent credits his success to his undergraduate research opportunities while studying at MSUB.

Assistant professor of management, Jessie Perius, Ph.D., has been [selected as an associate editor of marketing](#) for the MERLOT Journal's Business Editorial Board. The journal is an international community of educators, learners, and researchers that enables integration of technology into higher education.

Over 30 faculty members were honored for their excellence in teaching, community service, research, and scholarship during the annual [Faculty Excellence Awards Ceremony](#). Twenty-three faculty members were acknowledged for their years of service and two were recognized for achieving tenure.