



Office of the Chancellor MONTANA TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

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To: Board of Regents

From: Les Cook
Chancellor, Montana Technological University

RE: Campus Report for November 16-17, 2023, Board of Regents Meeting

- Highlands College hosted its annual Trades & Technology Day for high school students on October 5th. More than 200 students learned about programs ranging from automotive technology and metals fabrication, to commercial driving and radiologic technology.
- Collaborative research between Montana Technological University and the Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division, Keyport officially kicked off this fall, bringing expanded opportunities for talented student researchers to participate in projects for the U.S. Navy. Tech and the Naval Division originally entered into this historic cooperative research and development agreement in Fall 2022.
- Montana Technological University formally renamed the School of Mines and Engineering, the Lance College of Mines and Engineering. The renaming honors Montana Tech alumnus Ryan Lance and his wife Lisa, whose \$31 million gift is the largest in the university's history. The Ryan and Lisa Lance Scholars Program will annually provide 50 in-state students with the opportunity to receive a \$4,000 per-year scholarship, renewable for up to an additional three years (up to \$16,000 total). The Lance Energy Chair will expand Tech's expertise in STEM and establish the institution as a leader in energy, environment, and sustainability. The position will collaborate with academic programs across campus and develop unique multidisciplinary opportunities to expand research, modernize curriculum, and further industry engagement and commercialization.
- Montana Technological University is ranked #1 on DegreeChoices.com's "2024 Best Colleges in Montana" list. The rankings focus on return on investment, which weighs the total cost of a degree against graduates' earnings 10 years after graduation. The website calculates the median net cost of a Montana Tech degree at \$15,814. Median earnings of all students 10 years after graduation is calculated at \$49,032.
- Montana Tech and the University of Camerino in Italy launched a collaboration in the Fall of 2023 that will provide a cultural and scientific exchange of ideas between the two institutions, including a research proposal to study how lodgepole pine forests are recovering after fire events and how the under canopy changes with maturity in relation to species composition in Yellowstone National Park. The exchange is funded by a four-year grant from Erasmus+ and will allow professors and students from both institutions to engage in collaborative projects and attend courses at each other's campuses.
- Montana Tech Nursing Students created interactive stations throughout the student union building in acknowledgement of Suicide Prevention Month to share information and highlight support options on campus.