

# MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

BOZEMAN | BILLINGS | NORTHERN | GREAT FALLS COLLEGE

CAMPUS REPORT | Board of Regents Meeting | September 20-21, 2023



## MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY BILLINGS

City College has been [awarded a \\$1.9 million grant](#) from the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration Nursing Expansion Program to diversify and expand the nursing workforce in rural eastern Montana. The grant will create the Rural Eastern Montana Nursing Expansion Program and allow the program to serve 300 participants from rural and low-income backgrounds.

Three faculty members at MSU Billings recently [taught courses through the Second Chance Pell Experiment](#). These courses were piloted by instructors to inmates at the Montana Department of Corrections. At the conclusion of one course, ten participants in the program presented speeches at the Montana Women's Prison in front of a small audience, including Chancellor Stefani Hicswa.

Recent MSU Billings graduate [Brie Barron has been accepted into the University of Minnesota's English Literature Doctoral Program](#) with up to seven years of funding provided by the University of Minnesota. Barron, who completed her degree while raising two young children, will focus her interdisciplinary research on the effects of science and technology on post-WWII American literature.

Alex Shafer, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Health and Human Performance, has been selected as the recipient of the 2022-2023 [Great Northwest Athletic Conference Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Faculty Mentor Award](#). The annual award honors faculty members at GNAC-member institutions who demonstrate exemplary support to student-athletes on and off the field. Shafer was nominated and selected for his dedication to MSU Billings student-athletes and his ability to work with these individuals to balance academics and athletics.

Professor of Communication Sue Balter-Reitz, Ph.D., was [named a University of California National Center for Free Speech and Civic Engagement Fellow](#) for 2023-2024. Balter-Reitz and her co-author, Michael Bruner, Ph.D., University of Nevada Las Vegas, round out the class of ten fellows who will examine issues impacting democratic exchange and free expression on college campuses.

Deborah Schaffer, Ph.D. and Rachel Schaffer, Ph.D., [retired from MSU Billings after 40 years of instruction](#) each. The twin sisters were recently named Professors Emeritae and were lauded for their dedication to teaching, scholarly expertise, and long-term service to campus.

The Office of International Studies [awarded eleven faculty grants and three student scholarships](#) for 2023. Through the Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Languages Program, faculty members were able to develop new courses or revise existing ones to include Global Learning Outcomes. All new or existing revised courses will be part of the interdisciplinary International Studies Minor program.

The Yellowstone Science & Health Building Outdoor Learning Space in honor of Norm Schoenthal, Ph.D., has [exceeded its fundraising goal](#). The project will contain native Montana plants, some geological features, water features, and seating areas that will be used to bring classes outdoors. The project will also pay tribute to Schoenthal, who was a former MSUB science professor and influential individual in Billings and who was instrumental in creating the Yellowstone River Parks Association.