

# MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

BOZEMAN | BILLINGS | NORTHERN | GREAT FALLS COLLEGE

CAMPUS REPORT | Board of Regents Meeting | January 11, 2024



## MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY BILLINGS

MSU Billings recorded the [second highest fall-to-fall retention rate in 14 years](#) for all new students, as well as increased retention for the majority of student categories tracked. Steady enrollment was also seen at the census date. The goals of the university's comprehensive retention and graduation plan include intentional strategies for improving student retention and shortening the time to degree completion.

The MSU Billings RN to BSN Degree Program has been [accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education for the next ten years](#), the maximum duration possible. The accreditation is a recognition of MSU Billings commitment to excellence and the exceptional opportunities provided to students. The program is designed to meet the needs of working professionals and allows registered nurses to complete their Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree online while advancing their careers and providing quality healthcare to their communities.

Emily Arendt, Ph.D., assistant professor of history at MSU Billings, has been [appointed to the Montana 250<sup>th</sup> Commission](#). The commission is dedicated to encouraging civic engagement in anticipation of the United States semiquincentennial. The commission will be involved in creating a program to raise awareness and encouraging participation in the nation's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Recent graduate Dominick Buso had his [senior thesis published in a prestigious scientific journal](#). Buso's research was published in The Journal of Strength Conditioning Research in October 2023, a periodical that is circulated nationally as well as internationally. Buso, who is an alumnus of the MSU Billings Yellowjacket baseball team, involved his teammates as participants in his research, which can be utilized by coaches to improve baseball hitting performance.

Alisa Batchelor, international student and scholar services coordinator at the MSU Billings Office of International Studies, [has been named an Association of International Educators Representation, Inclusion, Support and Empowerment \(NAFSA RISE\) Fellow](#) in the 2024-2025 cohort. Batchelor is one of 11 fellows in the cohort and is the first individual from Montana named a NAFSA RISE Fellow. She will take part in a two-year program where she will receive personalized coaching, gain knowledge and skills, and expand her network before impacting campus and the Billings community through international education.

The MSU Billings women's basketball team recently hosted [the DII CCA Women's Basketball Tip Off Classic at the Trailhead for the second time](#). The Tip Off Classic featured ten teams representing six different states and five athletic conferences. Five of the teams competing were ranked in the WBCA Preseason Top 25 Coaches Poll, with the MSU Billings women's basketball program starting the season ranked fifteenth on the poll.