



The University of Montana Western Campus Report

DATE: June 2024

TO: Board of Regents

FROM: Michael Reid, Chancellor

RE: Campus Report for the July Board of Regents' Meeting

- **UMW Names Students to 2024 Spring Semester Dean's List**

The University of Montana Western named 523 students to the 2024 spring semester Dean's List. To achieve this honor, students must be enrolled full-time or for 12 semester credits and carry a minimum 3.33 grade point average.

- **UMW Professor Honored with Teaching Award**

Dr. Shay Kidd, an Associate Professor at Montana Western, has been recognized with the Dr. Bill Stannard Award for Excellence from the Department of Mathematical Sciences at Montana State University (MSU). This award acknowledges a Montana faculty member who exemplifies superior mathematics teaching outside of MSU.

Dr. Kidd played a significant role in Montana's revision of K-12 Mathematics Standards. His contributions ranged from revising existing standards to ensuring a seamless development of mathematical themes across grades. Notably, Dr. Kidd advocated for the inclusion of cultural considerations in mathematics

teaching, aligning with the state's focus on Indigenous Education for All (IEFA) aspects.

- **Montana Western Holds 127th Annual Commencement Ceremony**

The University of Montana Western celebrated its 127th Annual Commencement Ceremony on Saturday, May 4, 2024 in the Straugh Gymnasium on the UMW campus.

401 Montana Western graduates were awarded over 486 degrees. Of the 401 students, 80 completed two or more degrees, and 69% of graduates received honors by achieving a GPA of 3.33 or higher.

- **UMW Biology Student Presents at American Association for Anatomy**

Madeline Bradbury, a biology major at the University of Montana Western, presented original research at the American Association for Anatomy meeting in Toronto on March 25. She collaborated with Dr. Bradley Wood, UMW Professor of Biology, to study the coelomic wall in Sea Lampreys, aiming to understand vertebrate abdominal wall structure and pressure regulation. Her peer-reviewed abstract will be published in *Developmental Dynamics* this summer.

- **UMW Student Gracie Stanton Selected as Newman Civic Fellow**

The Newman Civic Fellowship is a yearlong program that recognizes students who stand out for their leadership potential and commitment to creating positive change in communities. The fellowship is named for the late Frank Newman, one of Campus Compact's founders, who was a tireless advocate for civic engagement in higher education.

UMW cohort Gracie Stanton is a third-year student and active campus and community leader. She is a peer-to-peer mentor in the TRIO Student Support Services program, where she plans engagement events for first-year students and serves as a first point of contact for student issues. She is additionally part of the Student Leadership Academy, an organization dedicated to developing a community of campus leaders and promoting professional growth throughout the campus.

- **UMW Natural Horsemanship Team Wins Collegiate Colt Starting Challenge.**

A team of students from the University of Montana Western's Natural Horsemanship program placed first in the 2024 Road to the Horse - Idaho Horse Expo Collegiate Colt Starting Challenge.

Over the course of the event, each team partnered with a filly from Bar 71 Ranch and competed in a series of challenges to test the training abilities of each team. Montana Western won rounds one, three, and four, ultimately securing the championship and \$3,000 prize.

Head UMW Natural Horsemanship Instructor, Eric Hoffmann, praised the event for providing valuable, hands-on learning experiences, emphasizing its importance in developing future leaders in the equine industry.

- **Montana Western Foundation Announces Murphy Involvement Legacy Scholarship**

The University of Montana Western Foundation proudly announced the Murphy Involvement Legacy Scholarship, established by Loran Murphy. This scholarship supports dedicated Montana Western students who excel academically and actively contribute to campus life. Murphy was an active student, serving as a Resident Assistant, Bulldog Ambassador, ACES mentor, and member of the Peers Advocating Towards Health (PATH) organization.

"We are excited about the positive impact this scholarship will have on the UMW community," said Roxanne Engellant, Executive Director of the UMW Foundation. "Loran had a tremendous impact as a student, and this scholarship will continue that legacy by supporting students who demonstrate similar qualities."

- **UMW Earns Recognition for Supporting Student Wellness**

Montana Western has been awarded the Campus Prevention Network (CPN) Seal of Prevention by Vector Solutions, recognizing its commitment to digital prevention programming for student safety, well-being, and inclusion.

Vector Solutions, an industry leader in postsecondary safety and prevention training, presents this seal to institutions demonstrating leadership in prevention education.

“We prioritize guiding students, faculty, and staff through our comprehensive training program, ensuring they acquire essential skills and knowledge to navigate real-world scenarios safely and responsibly. This approach not only prepares them effectively but also enhances their awareness of available resources for assistance,” said Sam Anderson, Administrative Associate in the Dean of Students Center.

- **Montana Western’s Jonah Lindsey Receives Student Volunteer Award**

University of Montana Western student Jonah Lindsey was recently awarded the 2024 Montana Student Volunteer Award for civic engagement and volunteerism. The award is presented through a partnership between the Governor’s Office of Community Service and Montana Campus Compact.

Lindsey will be a senior this fall and is majoring in Ecology with a Fish & Wildlife option. Since coming to Montana Western, he has been committed to serving the university and the Dillon community. He has significantly contributed to the growth of the UMW Honors Student Association, actively promoting the Honors Program by organizing and participating in fundraising events to support student travel to the annual Western Regional Honors Council (WRHC) Conference. As a primary promoter at the last three X-Day/Preview Day events, Lindsey has played a crucial role in showcasing the benefits of the Honors Program. Additionally, he founded the Babble Society, UMW’s language club, to foster language learning and cultural appreciation among students.

- **UMW Glass Program Partners with Beaverhead Chamber of Commerce**

The Beaverhead Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture announces the return of the Beaverhead Treasure Hunt in partnership with the University of Montana Western Glass Arts Program and Club. Now in its fourth year, this geo-tourism event features 200 hand-crafted glass mushrooms hidden throughout Beaverhead County from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Participants can find these colorful paperweights in local businesses for a chance to win \$100.