



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 March 14-15, 2024, Board of Regents Meeting

- Montana Technological University is ranked #1 on [RegisteredNursing.org's list](https://www.registerednursing.org) of the "2024 Best RN Programs in Montana." This is the second consecutive year that Montana Tech's Sherry Lesar School of Nursing tops the list. The rankings are determined by comparing the past five years of first-time pass rates for the NCLEX-RN test, a national licensing exam for registered nurses. Pass rates from the most recent test year are given more weight, and scores from five years ago are given less weight.
- Department Head of Mechanical Engineering and Founding Director of the Montana Tech Nanotechnology Laboratory (MTNL) Dr. Jack Skinner has been chosen by a group of top scientists, engineers, faculty, and industry leaders to serve a five-year term on the ten-person Steering Committee for the International Conference of Electron, Ion and Photon Beam Technology and Nanofabrication (EIPBN or 3-Beams). The EIPBN is the premier meeting for scientists and engineers dedicated to nanoscale fabrication and characterization and related technologies and applications across the broad technical community. Dr. Skinner will serve as the EIPBN Conference Chair and Chief Executive Officer for the non-profit organization in 2026. "I am honored and humbled to be chosen as the Conference Chair for the 69th EIPBN and to join the EIPBN Steering Committee.
- Students at Montana Technological University have a new early acceptance pathway to medical school through a recently signed agreement with the Rocky Vista University Montana College of Osteopathic Medicine (RVU-MCOM) in Billings. The Early Acceptance Program will allow undergraduate Montana Tech students who have fulfilled the specified requirements to gain acceptance to RVU-MCOM without taking the MCAT. Students must maintain a science and overall cumulative GPA of 3.5 to be eligible.
- A group of Orediggers are revitalizing the Montana Tech Ski Club. "The Ski Club's mission is to make skiing easier to access and cheaper for Montana Tech students," said Quinn Cox, a software engineering student from Soldotna, Alaska. Ski Club is working to offer a rideshare to help students without cars, reduced rates or group lodging accommodations at resorts across the state, gear, a wax table, and lessons from members for students who want to learn.
- Montana Technological University will hold a free workshop in the summer of 2024 for K-12 teachers to learn about the petroleum industry and its impact on their local community. Hess Corporation will sponsor the free Montana Petroleum Resources Workshop, which will include room and board for the week. Participating teachers receive 31 License Renewal Units or two graduate college credits from Montana State University-Billings.