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To: Board of Regents

From: Les Cook  
Chancellor, Montana Technological University

RE: Campus Report for January 8, 2025, Board of Regents Meeting

- Montana Tech was named #1 on the list of Best Online Master's in Montana for 2024 by Online Master's Colleges (OMC). Montana Tech offers two fully online master's degree programs, a Master of Science in Industrial Hygiene and a Master of Project Engineering and Management. As part of the rankings, OMC evaluates various criteria, including graduation and retention rates, affordability, and program accreditation.
- A Montana Technological University doctoral student took home a top award at the International Mineral Processing Congress (IMPC 2024) held in Washington, D.C. Sept. 29-Oct. 3. IMPC 2024 drew together approximately 800 of the world's leading experts in mineral processing including around 120 students from over 50 countries. Mitchell Harvey (Master of Science Metallurgical & Mineral Processing Engineering, '23), a Materials Science Ph.D. student from North Little Rock, Arkansas, received the award for Best Technical Paper by an Author younger than 30 in the Innovation, Research, and Development category.
- The Sherry Lesar School of Nursing at Montana Technological University is the newest member of the Zeta Upsilon at-Large Chapter of the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. It held an induction ceremony for all Montana Tech, Carroll College, and Montana State University students on Saturday, October 26, 2024 in the Library Auditorium. The charter was amended to allow Montana Tech to join Carroll College and Montana State University in the Zeta Upsilon at-Large Chapter in June, marking the culmination of several years of hard work spearheaded by Assistant Professor Laurie Noel.
- Montana Technological University received a major donation of more than 100 suits from Yellowstone National Park Lodges to help students look sharp for upcoming job interviews and the spring Career Fair. The donation was part of their effort to leave a [Softer Footprint®](#) in the environment through sustainability practices. The donation meets critical needs of Tech's Career Closet, which currently includes more than 600 pieces of professional clothing, including everything from ties and dress shoes to scarves, pant suits and dresses.
- The Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology (MBMG) has been collecting and storing data about the State's geological, mineral, energy, and water resources for over 100 years, and it takes a team of dedicated scientists to organize, analyze, and present that data in a way that benefits humanity. Daniel Buckley (B.S. Data Science, '22; M.S. Geoscience, '24) is part of a team that spends his days as a data scientist. One of his recent projects explored potential causes of declining groundwater levels in the Bitterroot Valley. His analysis showed that the drying climate was likely the main cause. He's now studying the annual behavior of groundwater levels in Montana, how those levels change seasonally, and what behavioral patterns occur across the state.