



Greetings faculty, staff, and students,

Two weeks ago, I attended our student campus ministry mass to hear newly appointed Bishop Austin Vetter. In his remarks, the Bishop shared that his assignment includes responsibility for everyone within 52,000 square miles of Montana. He went on to say that while this may seem overwhelming as he is one individual and obviously cannot do this

work alone, thus he must rely on the assistance of others to do the work that needs to be accomplished.

As a new Chancellor with responsibility for 2,400 students, approximately 500 faculty and staff, 200 plus acres, and multiple facilities, I can somewhat relate to the feeling the Bishop shared. Changing the world for the better and preparing our graduates to make a difference can be overwhelming and a steep challenge. Fortunately, like Bishop Vetter, I too have others I can call upon to assist us in doing this important work.

In this edition of the *Chancellor Check-in*, you'll find others who are doing just this. I hope you enjoy both the updates and stories.



Montana Technological University's RN to BSN program has been ranked among the top in the nation by *Nursing Process*. Out of the 73 accredited RN to BSN Programs in the Western Region, Montana Tech ranked in the #4 position.

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Nursing Simulation Center A Reality

One of the gifts propelling Montana Tech past our campaign goal is a commitment signed in December from Dave and Sherry Lesar, to name the upcoming Nursing Simulation Center. This gift, along with a leadership gift from Jerry and Julie Schuyler and gifts from many other donors, will put the university in a position to begin detailed planning and design work this year.



Mark Your Calendars

Exciting things are happening in the Admissions and Enrollment Department! We're especially looking forward to DiggerCon on April 3rd. This event will allow high school seniors to experience life as a Montana Tech student while enrolling for fall classes. We'll also welcome sophomores and juniors to campus for Tech Day on March 27th. In addition to these events, the staff is working closely with our campus Recruitment Committee and consultants from Ruffalo Noel Levitz to develop comprehensive recruitment and scholarship strategies. We'll be on the road this spring developing new articulation agreements with 2-year colleges and building relationships with high school guidance counselors. All these efforts are generating excitement about the opportunities before us!

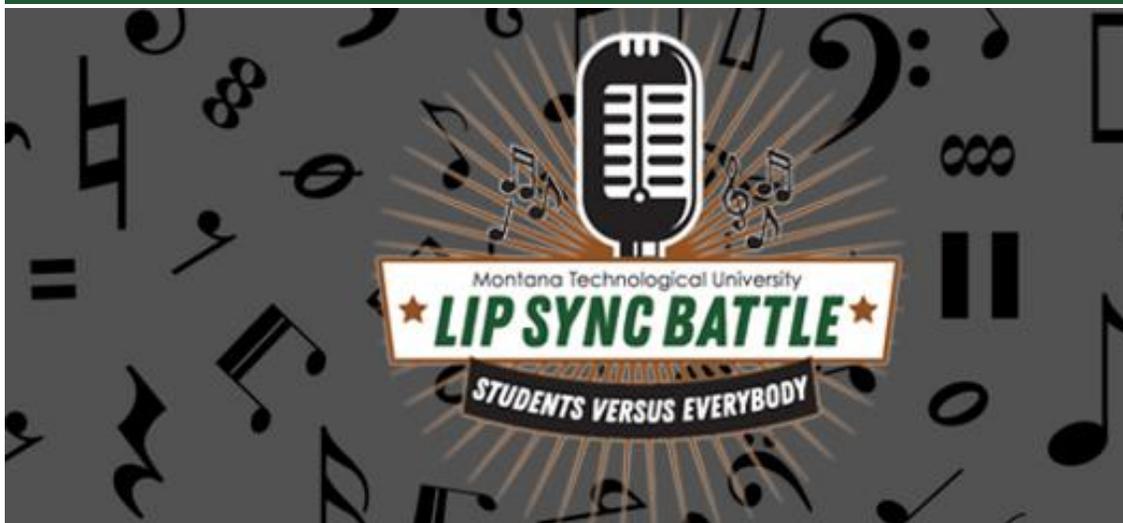


Robolution Brings Home Top Honor at Robotics Competition

In January 2020, Robolution, the FTC robotics team sponsored by the Upward Bound program

of the Institute of Educational Opportunities at Montana Tech, received the top honor INSPIRE award at the FIRST Tech Challenge held on the campus of Montana State University.

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EVENTS IN FULL SWING

The student experience is in full swing as we jump into Spring 2020. On February 2, students are invited to attend a super bowl party in the SSC in the Lance Leadership Hall. This event is a collaboration with the Residence Hall Association (RHA). On February 13, RHA and Student Activities will work together once again to host Casino Night and a Roaring 20-20's dance party. All events will be in the SUB from 9:00 pm to midnight. We are looking for faculty and staff volunteers to be dealers. Our campus will host the first annual Lip Sync Battle Students vs. Everybody. The Sync will be an exciting event with students, faculty, and staff competing for the title of Lip Sync Champion!



What's Coming Up for Montana Tech at Next Board of Regents Meetings

The Montana Board of Regents will convene at the University of Montana-Western on March 5th and 6th. This will be an exciting time for Montana Tech as we go before the Board to gain approval of the Doctor of Philosophy in Earth Science Engineering degree. This will be Montana Tech's second PhD and will increase enrollment in graduate level courses among a number of departments, enhance peer learning among students bringing different backgrounds to the program, enrich synergies with other degree programs in the Montana University System, and will make Montana Tech and the state more competitive for federal and industrial research funding in earth sciences and engineering. In addition to the PhD in Earth Science Engineering, we hope to gain final approval for the Master's in Restoration Ecology as well as changing the name of our Applied Health and Safety Science degree to Exercise and Sport Science.



Search Updates: VC for Administration and Finance and Dean of CLSPS

Montana Tech has launched the search for the Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance. Steve Gammon is chairing the search. Additional members of the search committee include:

- Carleen Cassidy, Budget & Finance
- Paul Lassiter, UM
- Scott Forthofer, Student Life/Auxiliaries
- Deanna Johnson, Foundation
- Casey Vanatta, Staff Senate
- Faculty Senate Representative
- Katelyn Allen, ASMT Representative

Finally, the search for our next Dean of the College of Letters, Sciences, & Professional Studies will launch in the next couple days. The committee will be chaired by department heads, Katie Hailer and Amy Kuenzi. Others on the search committee include:

- Megan Rediske, Nursing
- Hilary Risser, Math
- Tim Kober, Business
- Chris Danielson, LS
- Cheyenne Crooker, Staff
- Julie Hart, School of Mines and Engineering Representative
- Michelle Morley, Highlands College Representative

- Bev Hartline, Research Office
 - Sydney Jennings, Interdisciplinary master's student
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Students and Faculty to Present at NCUR 2020

Twenty four Montana Technological University undergraduate students along with their faculty mentors have been accepted to present their research at the 34th annual National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR 2020). The event will see more than 4,000 students from around the world on March 26-28, 2020 at Montana State University. Faculty and students will share their scholarly research, network with their peers and faculty mentors, and meet with graduate school and corporate recruiters.

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Please join campus for Advancing Montana Technological University with Chancellor Les Cook and the Executive Team.

Wednesday, February 5, 2020

3:00 p.m.

Library Auditorium

A cocktail reception will follow in the lobby of the Student Success Center.

IMPORTANT DATES:

February 5: Advancing Montana Tech Forum

February 9: Tech Ski Day

February 27 & 28: Foundation Board Meetings (Houston)

March 5 & 6: Board of Regents Meetings (Dillon)

March 14-22: Spring Break

March 27: Tech Day

March 27-April 3: M Days

April 3: Digger Con

April 18: Miners Ball - Digger Athletic Association Auction

April 23: Techxpo

View the Public Lecture Series and Restoration Seminars on the [Montana Tech Calendar](#)

View the athletic schedules [here](#)

As you can see, a lot is happening and we have much to be proud of at Montana Tech. A recent USA Today poll asked what US workers wanted at work. The highest, topping the list at 41%, was the desire to make a difference. Through our interactions with students, employers, alumni, and each other, we know we make a difference, and the stories above illuminate this. However, none of us can do it singlehandedly. From recruiting students, supporting them in and out of the classroom, connecting with alumni and friends, and engaging in activities in our community, we must remember that every interaction we have with others matters.

With gratitude and best wishes,

Les



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