



March 2022

Greetings faculty, staff, and students,

I hope you had a good spring break and took time to rest and relax. Two years ago this week, we were forced to move everything online for the remainder of the spring semester. Little did we know how long COVID-19 would be with us or how exhausted we would become as a result. The good news is we survived, and the stories within this edition of the Chancellor Check-in illuminate how incredibly well our faculty, staff, and students are doing.

Please join me in congratulating our faculty merit award winners, our Frontier Conference Champion Men's Basketball Team, Society of Mining Engineering Award winner Dr. Tom Camm, three-time national champion runner Becca Richtman and more.



Congratulations to the following faculty members for receiving a MTFA Merit Award. They are Stella Capoccia, Scott Coguill, Alysia Cox, Pat Munday, Hilary Risser, and Scott Risser. We appreciate all you do.



BUDGET FORUM

Join Chancellor Cook and the Budget Committee to learn about Montana Tech's budget process, types of funding, current challenges, and the latest updates.

April 12, 2022 | 3:00-5:00 pm

Library Auditorium or via ZOOM



HIGHLANDS & BLACK BUTTE COPPER PARTNER

Highlands College and Black Butte Copper (BBC) are partnering to provide a robust training program and pathway beginning with non-credit certifications through credited certificate and degree programs for Black Butte Copper employees. The training program will allow BBC employees the opportunity to receive a certificate or associate's degree in Mining Technology from Montana Tech.

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NATIONAL CHAMPION

BECCA RICHTMAN



Congratulations to **Coach Kughn and the Oredigger Track & Field team** as they recently competed at the NAIA Indoor Track & Field National Championships. Becca Richtman, a senior from Ellburn, Illinois, took first place in the one mile and 3000m races and finished in second in the 5000m. Richtman is now a three-time national champion for the Orediggers. Richtman won the steeple chase last spring at the outdoor national championship. Richtman was named the Most Valuable Performer. Richtman scored the most points

individually, finishing with 28. The Orediggers finished in sixth place overall at the meet with Richtman scoring all of Tech's points.

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Dr. Thomas Camm, a professor in the Mining Engineering Department, is the 2022 recipient of the Mineral Economics Award. The award recognizes distinguished contributions in the advancement of mineral economics. Dr. Camm received the award due to his outstanding contributions in the advancement of applied mining economics and his devotion to educating students in these disciplines.

The award was presented at the SME (Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration) 2022 MINEXCHANGE Annual Conference & Expo in Salt Lake City, Utah during the Award Dinner on March 2.



AGC CLUB BRINGS HOME TROPHY

Congratulations to Montana Tech's faculty and students who competed in the 2022 Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) region 6/7 annual construction bidding competition. The competition saw 181 teams from 53 different universities compete, including 1,086 students, 245 alternates, 180 faculty members, and 136 companies attending. Tech's AGC Club's Heavy Civil team placed 3rd. The team trained through the fall semester, learning various methods to construct heavy civil projects. The team members have diverse construction experiences through summer internships and family businesses. The competition included 15 teams from universities in the Rocky Mountain region, including Montana State, Colorado State, Northern University of Arizona, Brigham Young University, and the University of Alaska. The Montana Tech team included Colton Eliason, Logan Kolodejchuk, Archie Lind, Brock MacDonald, George Shick (captain), and Brent Tezak. The team was given the Kiewit-sponsored problem of preparing a large container yard in Hawaii. The problem included designing a dewatering system, managing contaminated soils, surcharging weak materials, and developing a complex paving plan. Three alternates competed in the 'Alternate Competition.' Alternates compete on teams comprised of students from across the country. Rudolph & Sletten sponsors this competition to challenge the students to work on a hands-on, fast-paced, diverse problem. This category is a great way to introduce students to the competition. This year's alternates were Brandon Quinn, Justus Peterson, and Thomas Walkup. Brandon Quinn's team placed 2nd in this competition.



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ROBIN BULLOCK NAMED INTERIM DIRECTOR OF CERA

Montana Tech is renewing its commitment to conduct environmental remediation, restoration, and reuse research with the reimagining of its Center for Environmental Remediation and Assessment (CERA). The Center focuses on research and education that develops sustainable and reliable waste management technologies that are innovative, scalable and effective, in support of communities, industry, and government.



Dr. Robin Bullock, professor in the Environmental Engineering Department at Montana Technological University, has been appointed the interim Director of CERA on campus. Under Bullock's leadership, CERA will broaden its charge, creating greater value around waste management, and beneficial reuse of waste materials and reclaimed lands.

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RESEARCH UPDATE

The Research Office is hosting its first year-end annual recognition luncheon that recognizes the top award winners and proposal writers for the year. Those recognized this year are:

Awards:

Ron White – Materials Technology for Rare Earth Elements Processing

Amy Verlanic – Talent Search and Talent Search Capital City

Katie McDonald & Colleen Elliott – StateMap

Ted Duaine – Butte Mine Flooding

Michelle Morley – Training & Education Pathways – Black Butte Mine

Proposals:

Bryce Hill - Lunar Site Preparation via Autonomous Rovers submitted to NASA

Brian St. Clair - REU Site: Interdisciplinary Research Experience in Environmental Science and Engineering submitted to NSF



Congratulations to the Montana Tech men's basketball team for a great season. The team won their first Frontier Conference regular season title since 1993 and first Frontier Conference Tournament since 1999 defeating Carroll College 62-61. The tournament championship victory is the first for the Orediggers since 1999.



The team also had success at the 2022 NAIA Men's Basketball National Championship Opening Round in Waxahachie, Texas. In their first game, the Diggers, who went in as the No. 3 seed, defeated Mid-American Christian University 71-67. In the second round, the Orediggers' season came to an end when they lost to No. 6 SAGU 77-63. The Orediggers finished the season 27-7. Great job to Coach Hiatt and his team! We are proud of you!





Montana Technological University's Talent Search Club is now the largest club at East Middle School, with over 100 students. In September 2022, Montana Tech received a Talent Search grant to provide first-generation students with a path into college. Montana Tech also received two \$1.5 million grants to serve 1,010 middle and high school students in Southwestern Montana.

In 2017, the university hired Kristy Wiley, a teacher at East Middle School, to serve as a talent search coach at the middle school. In her first four years in the position, Wiley's caseload averaged 55 students. She is now experiencing a participation increase of 200%.

Wiley continues to exceed goals in recruiting and serving students. Wiley and her students engage in robotic activities to increase science and math interest. Wiley also coordinates field trips to increase student confidence and knowledge about college campuses. She helps students become civilly engaged by providing community service opportunities

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