



April 26, 2022

Greetings! I hope you are well and finding success as we wind down the last few days of the academic year. Last week was the 126th running of the Boston Marathon, and I know these last few weeks can feel like an uphill climb with many miles to go. The good news is we're almost there, and the finish line is in sight.

Speaking of finish lines, I'd like to congratulate our ASCE Concrete Canoe Team for their recent competition at Colorado School of Mines and our Goldwater Scholar and student employee of the year. I'm also honored to celebrate our research and merit award winners and those who have given over 1,220 years of service to Montana Tech.

This past weekend was an exciting one as our campus and community came together at the Miner's Ball to show their support for our student-athletes. The annual auction raised close to a quarter-million dollars. The display of pride and affinity for our students was extraordinary!

From our athletic and senior design teams to those involved in cutting-edge research, others who participated in the CFWEP Earth Day clean-up, and our faculty and staff, the strength of the Montana Tech family lies in not only what we contribute as individuals, but is magnified by what we accomplish together.



**BULLOCK TO LEAD CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL
REMEDATION AND ASSESSMENT**

Montana Technological University 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 Tech, 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.

The collaborative research program focuses on physical and societal aspects of environmental impact and restoration/reuse. The linked research projects will evaluate opportunities for resilient, effective, and value-added remediation and restoration of impacted lands— thereby reducing the nation's protracted site clean-up and underutilization of remediated properties.

[Read more](#)



Casey Lozar, chair of the Montana Board of Regents, will be Montana Technological University's commencement speaker at the university's ceremony on Saturday, May 7, 2022.

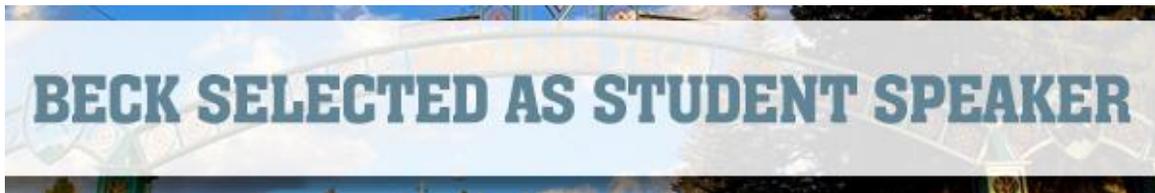
Casey Lozar is the vice president and director of the Center for Indian Country Development for the Federal Reserve based out of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. The Center is a national research and policy institute committed to assisting tribes across the country reach their full economic potential on their own terms. In this role, he brings to life actionable research and policy development to advance economic and community development in Indian Country with a focus on access to affordable capital, tribal public finance, and advancing economic infrastructure. In 2021, he served Indian Country as a detailee at the United States



Department of the Treasury, where he was responsible for distributing \$20 billion of American Rescue Plan Act funds to tribal governments to help mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Before leading the Center for Indian Country Development, he served as the executive at the Helena Branch of the Minneapolis Federal Reserve.

Montana Tech's 2022 ceremony will be held outside on Bob Green Field in Alumni Coliseum on Saturday, May 7, 2022, beginning at 11:00 am. This will be the university's first outdoor ceremony since 2012. For more information, please [click here](#).

[Read more](#)



Braeden Beck will be the student speaker at Montana Tech's commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 7, 2022. Beck grew up in Missoula, Montana, graduating from Loyola Sacred Heart High School in 2018. He enjoys Butte because of the wonderful people in the community and its rich history and culture. Upon graduating, he will move to Lincoln, Nebraska, to start a career as a transportation engineer.



Please welcome Ron Muffick to our Montana Tech team. Ron will join the university on July 1 as the Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance (VCAF).

Muffick currently serves as the director of operations and administration with the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education. Ron's experience within the MUS is extensive, having served for 29 years in various roles, including the last 15 in senior leadership roles. Ron's expertise includes finance, accounting and budget, facilities management, student financial aid, strategic planning, and human resources. In his current role, Ron manages General

Spending Authority for approximately \$20 million and is the lead for long-range building projects within the MUS. He also oversees \$15 million in state financial aid initiatives. Ron's experience within OCHE and a variety of constituents, including the Board of Regents, Governor's Office, State Legislature, Architecture, and Engineering, will undoubtedly be of value to Montana Tech as we go forward.



Montana Tech undergraduate Baylie Phillips has been awarded the 2022 Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and the Montana Student Volunteer Award. The Goldwater Scholarship is the most prestigious undergraduate scholarship awarded in the natural sciences, mathematics, and engineering in America. Phillips is one of 14 Montana college students awarded the Montana Student Volunteer Award by the Governor's Office of Community Service.

Phillips, a junior majoring in Metallurgical and Materials Engineering, is mentored by Jerry Downey, Professor and Department Head of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering; Avimanyu Das, Associate Professor in Metallurgical and Materials Engineering; and Zach Cordero, Assistant Professor in the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics in the School of Engineering at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Her research has encompassed a broad array of disciplines but is focused on exploring the complete life cycle of material, from fabrication, testing and evaluation, secondary processing techniques, and ultimately removing materials from environmental systems. After completing her degree programs, Baylie plans to pursue a doctorate in Materials Science.

From an estimated pool of over 5,000 college sophomores and juniors, 1,242 natural science, engineering, and mathematics students were nominated by 433 academic institutions to compete for the 2022 Goldwater scholarships. Of students who reported, 175 of the Scholars are men, 234 are women, and virtually all intend to obtain a Ph.D. as their highest degree objective. Forty-five Scholars are mathematics and computer science majors, 308 are majoring in the natural sciences, and 64 are majoring in engineering. Many scholars have published their research in leading professional journals and have presented their work at professional society conferences.

The Metallurgical and Materials Engineering junior says that volunteering will always be a part of her life, even as she pursues research and a doctorate in Materials Science.

[Read more](#)



ASCE STUDENTS COMPETE IN CONCRETE CANOE COMPETITION

The Montana Tech American Society of Civil Engineers Chapter successfully raced a canoe made of concrete in the ASCE Rocky Mountain Regional Concrete Canoe Competition April 8-9, at the Colorado School of Mines, against other teams from the U.S.

The ASCE has challenged engineering students to design and race a canoe made of concrete since 1988. The competition is often referred to as America's Cup of Civil Engineering. Faculty advisor Bret Robertson noted this year's Montana Tech team was comprised entirely of novice members who had never competed before.



The competition is judged on a technical report, overall canoe design, and performance during races. These challenges assess the creation of the team's theme, design of the canoe and mixtures, and the finished product. Judges evaluate aesthetics, durability, and effectiveness of the canoe shape. One of the most important parts of testing is the swamp test. The swamp test is performed prior to racing when each team must submerge the canoe under water and show that it floats afterward. Once teams pass the swamp test, it's time for the races, with both sprinting and slalom events.

[Read more](#)



STUDENT EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



Ellie Berreth is the recipient of the campus 2022 Student Employee of the Year award, Montana Technological University Chancellor Les Cook announced at a special ceremony on campus. Berreth has also been chosen as Student Employee of the Year for Montana by the Western Association of Student Employment Administrators.

Berreth, a Teaching Assistant in the Civil Engineering department, was chosen after a thorough review of eight nominees via a selection committee. The committee uses

the National Association of Colleges and Employers' criteria for competencies and personal characteristics to judge nominations. Competencies include critical thinking, problem solving, oral and written communications, teamwork, collaboration, and more.

Berreth's nomination letter was submitted to the Western Association of Student Employment Administrators for its Student Employee of the Year Awards. Berreth was then selected as the 2022 state winner for Montana. All students recognized for the 2022 year will be spotlighted here.

Read more



HIGHLANDS COLLEGE AWARDED \$1M FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Montana Tech's Highlands College was awarded a \$1M in funding from Butte-Silver Bow to support workforce development. After a presentation by Karen VanDaveer, interim dean, and her team, the workforce development initiative was approved with overwhelming support.

Highlands College will develop and offer the following critically important workforce training programs to assist the City-County in rebuilding the local economy and the employment shortcomings that have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The job skill retooling

programs are in high demand by local employers and include Construction, Welding, and Machining Technology, Automotive, Networking and Cybersecurity, Healthcare, Heavy Equipment, School to Work Scholarships, Lifeguard Training, and Commercial Drivers' & Regional Testing Center.



Congratulations to our employees for their many years of service to Montana Tech. We appreciate you!

Retirees: Jackie Amaya, Scott Schendel, Richard Rossi, Celia Schahczenski, Michele Van Dyne, Steve Tarrant, Kim Roberts, Mary Durkin, Rita Freebourn, Marilyn Patrick

45 years: John Ray

40 years: Terence Duaine and Bernadette Tregidga

35 years: John Reiten

30 years: Ginette Abdo, John Amtmann, Maureen Brophy, Jeffrey Lonn

25 years: John Foley, Christopher Gammons, Mary MacLaughlin, James Madison, Shelley Reed, Shauna Savage, Douglas Schleeman, Daniel Trudnowski

20 years: Allison Duffy, Jeffery Fellows, Shawn Kuzara, Debra Newgard, Dennis Noel, James Rose, Anne Telling

15 years: Jacqueline Amaya, Laurie Battle, Jerry Downey, Mathew Egloff, Charie Faught, Rita Freebourn, Tammy Gordon, Jay Gunderson, Gary Icopini, Jeff Johnson, Laurie Noel, Daniel Lowney, Debbie Luft, Brandon McLean, David Reichart, Jacqueline Timmer, Angela Stillwagon, Michele Van Dyne

10 years: Nick Bowsher, Thomas Camm, Kristi Carroll, Abhishek Choudhury, Alan Christensen, Pamela Diedrich, Colleen Fink, Janet Friesz, Reanna Lange, Coby Lean, Todd

Myse, Lance Revenaugh, Kaleb Scarberry, Scott Schendel, Jack Skinner, Brian Solomon, Gary Wyss

5 years: Peter Lucon, Heather Lingle, Katie Peck, Victoria Pagan, Adam Hiatt, Stacey Corbitt, Akua Oppong Anane; Megan Rediske, Scott Coguill, Younger Acebedo, Jessica Andriolo, Lorri Birkenbuel, Tara Caprara, Erik Castle, Robert Chamblin, Stanley Cunningham, Monty Dolson, Joel Graff, Tamora Harp, Matthew Haynes, Liping Jiang, Dale Kollmeyer, Yiwen Li, Edward McDonald, Larry Peterson, Katie Schumacher, Doug Shidler, Ryan Stapley, David Subik, Connie Thomson, Niki Wilcox



AND THE AWARD GOES TO

Research Top Awardees

Ted Duaine
Colleen Elliott
Katie McDonald
Michelle Morley
Amy Verlanic
Ron White

Research Top Proposal Writers

Bryce Hill
Brian St. Clair

2021 Lifetime Distinguished Research Awardee

Marvin Speece

2022 Lifetime Distinguished Research Awardee

John Amtmann

2021 Distinguished Research Awardees

Alysia Cox
Atish Mitra
Jack Skinner

2022 Distinguished Research Awardees

Chris Danielson
Peter Lucon

MTFA Merit Awardees

Stella Capoccia
Scott Coguill

Alysia Cox
Pat Munday
Hilary Risser
Scott Risser

Non-MTFA Merit Awardees

Sue Schrader
Glenn Shaw
Sudhakar Vadiraja

MBMG Merit Awardees

Jesse Mosolf
Yiwen Li

Rose and Anna Busch School of Mines & Engineering Awardees

Lorri Birkenbuel
Ryan Munson

Rose and Anna Busch College of Letters, Sciences & Professional Studies Awardees

Joel Graff
Katie Hailer

Rose and Anna Busch Highlands College Awardee

Linda Granger

Rose and Anna Busch Part-time Faculty Awardee

Luke Buckley

2022 Outstanding Staff Awardee

Anne Telling

Above and Beyond Awardee

Janet Friesz



**SHERRY LESAR SCHOOL
OF NURSING RECOGNIZED**

Montana Tech's reputation as a top choice for nursing students continues to grow, as EDsmart, a nationally recognized publisher of college resources and independent rankings, recently ranked the program among the best BSN programs in the nation for 2022. The Sherry Lesar School of Nursing is the only university in Montana to appear on the list, and comes in at #19.

The rankings were determined by equally weighting the following five factors: NCLEX pass rate, salary after attending, average net price, retention rate, and graduation rate.

In fall of 2021 the school of nursing received a historic gift of \$7 million from Dave and Sherry Lesar. The funds will help grow and sustain the nursing program's quality and impact the students, faculty, and curriculum. Funds from the endowed gift will be used to provide student scholarships, professional development opportunities for faculty, leadership training, and advanced degrees including a plan to offer a master's degree in nursing education in the next five to seven years.

[Read more](#)



Join Us!

TECHXPO

MONTANA TECH

11TH ANNUAL MONTANA TECH TECHXPO

THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2022

MONTANA TECH HPER

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- | | |
|----------------|----------------------------------|
| 1:00 pm | Student Check-in |
| 1:30 pm | Opening Remarks: Chancellor Cook |
| 1:45 - 4:15 pm | Project Judging |
| 1:45 - 4:30 pm | Campus & Community Viewing |
| 4:30 - 5:30 pm | Reception & Awards Ceremony |

Come see the innovation that happens on the Montana Tech campus each day and listen, inquire, and learn from the nation's finest students and faculty.



ADVANCING

Montana Technological University



Mark your calendars for the last Advancing Montana Tech Forum for the academic year.

Thursday, May 10, 2022

2:00 pm | Library Auditorium



HIGHLANDS COLLEGE



Inaugural Golf Scramble to benefit Trades & Technology

When

June 3rd, 2022
Registration 9 A.M.
Tee Off: 10 A.M.

Where

Highlands View Golf Course
9 Hole Par 3 Course
3150 S. Utah Avenue

Entry Options

\$140 for a 4 person Team
\$35 for Individual Golfers
Includes: a goodie bag, 2 drink tickets, & lunch

Sponsorships

Copper Sponsorships \$300:
Includes a team registration & premium signage at the event

Hole Sponsorships \$100:
Includes signage at designated hole

Registration



To register online scan the QR code or
<https://highlandsgolf.givesmart.com>

Questions?
Contact Barb Collins at (406) 496-3791
or bcollins@mtech.edu