



Greetings faculty, staff, and students,

Welcome to this edition of the Chancellor Check-In. On Monday, we hosted the Western Circuit Montana College Fair for prospective students and their families. Two weeks ago, we hosted the Board of Regents for the Montana University System, and last week we celebrated Homecoming and distinguished alumni. They say that Homecoming is the celebration of an organization's existence, and while I agree, I think you'll see that we have an abundance of things happening to celebrate.

In this edition of the Chancellor Check-In, we welcome new faculty and staff, introduce you to our new Prospectors, provide information about upcoming events, including Family Weekend, Trades & Technology Day, and Reverend Jamie Washington. We also celebrate our student-athletes, Beverly Hartline, Faculty Emeriti, and Kaden Cox, who will be participating in the International Lineman Rodeo. And a whole lot more.

Thanks for all you do as part of the Montana Tech Family, and enjoy.



This fall, our admissions office launched a new ambassador program on campus. Our ambassadors are called “Prospectors,” a name that embraces our mining heritage as well as their role in working with prospective students.

Faculty and staff nominated these students for their leadership, enthusiasm, and affinity for Montana Tech and their welcoming personalities. Prospectors lead campus tours, host events, participate in campus events, and periodically take over social media channels.

We’re excited about this new program and the impact they are already having on our campus. Our 16 Prospectors are:

- Alexandria Anderson
- Avery Londo
- Cade O’Neill
- Cassidy Lavin
- Clayton Moody
- Grace Mulholland
- Jeff Guthrie
- Jhett Braley
- Jill Winnick
- Hannes Chandler
- Katelyn McNamee
- Katherine Larson
- Mijah McLeod
- Morgan Ashbaugh
- Reyla Williams
- Skylar Elenbaas

If you see any of these Prospectors, make sure and say hi as well as thank them for being the face of Montana Tech.



We extend a hearty welcome to our new faculty and staff. Since May, we have added the following Orediggers to our team. Please help me welcome these individuals to Montana Tech. We will officially welcome them at a reception on September 30.

James J. Barrington, Physical Facilities
Clifton J. Braddy, Student Affairs
Robin J. Bullock, Environmental Engineering
Joshua F. Cunningham, Physical Facilities
Jessica Daignault, Civil Engineering
Deepa S. De Silva, Biological Sciences
Sushil Dhakal, Mechanical Engineering
Joel Dietrich, MBMG - Office of the Director
Sara Edinberg, MBMG
Patricia Ekberg, MBMG
Erick Engelsen, Information Technology
Kathryn Fitzgerald-McCormick, Academic Affairs
Jim Freebourn, Computer Science
Shauna Goodell, Student Affairs
Sierra Hancock, Career Services
Ann Hanson, MBMG
Michele Hardy, College of Letters, Sciences, & Professional Studies
Thomas Jungst, Highlands College
Joshua Kovnesky, Physical Facilities
James LeProwse, Highlands College
Angela Lueking, Research Office
Rachel Neal, Institute for Educational Opportunities
Sarah North Wolfe, Student Affairs
Abigail Parnell, Admissions
Stacy Phillips, Nursing
Brooke Samson, Highlands College
Brian Seaholm, Mechanical Engineering
Megan Strickland, Admissions
Melissa Wanamaker, Institute for Educational Opportunities



Good news! The fall semester has begun, and things are heading in the right direction on the enrollment front. New and transfer student enrollment is up 8% over last year and the percent of continuing students who reenrolled is at 89%. The number of students living on-campus is also higher with 360 on-campus residents. While we aren't exactly where we'd like to be yet, this is all excellent news.

I want to thank everyone for helping with recruiting and retaining our Orediggers. This is a team effort and together we are making a difference.



On Friday, Montana Tech honored the 2020 Distinguished Alumni awardees James Fraser, James Tangaro, and Kendell V. Tholstrom. The Distinguished Alumni Award is presented to alumni of Montana Tech, who established a professional career of at least 20 years, of which five years have been in a responsible capacity, and who has either contributed outstandingly to the furtherance of his or her profession and/or has been an outstanding contributor to Montana Tech.

Also on Friday evening, Montana Tech alumnus Ryan Lance received the university's first-ever Chancellor's Award of Distinction. The new award is the highest honor conveyed by Montana Tech in recognition of an alumnus or friend of the university whose outstanding

personal and professional accomplishments and community service have brought distinction to Montana Tech. The award is given at the sole discretion of the Chancellor.



Montana Tech continues to encourage masking up in all indoor spaces and masks are required for everyone in instructional areas (classrooms, labs, etc.). New reusable Tech branded masks can be picked up at the SUB information desk.

Everyone is also encouraged to give it their best shot by getting vaccinated. COVID-19 vaccines are widely available, with pop-up clinics planned as follows:

- Tuesday, Sept. 28, Butte-Silver Bow Health Department, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Wednesday, Sept. 29, Highlands College, 1:30 to 3:30.
- Thursday, Sept. 30, Butte Civic Center, Vaccine Sweepstakes event, 1 to 2:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Sept. 30, Belmont Senior Center, 10 a.m. to noon,
- Saturday, Oct. 2, Uptown Butte Farmers Market on Park Street, 10 a.m.-noon

Third shots are now being administered to those who self-attest to being immune-compromised and those on immunosuppressant therapy. In addition to the pop-up locations, vaccines are also available at Safeway on Massachusetts; Walgreens; CVS; Walmart; the Medical Arts Pharmacy next to St. James Healthcare; the Butte-Silver Bow Health Department; and Southwest Montana Community Health Center.

If you have questions about the number of local cases and Tech data, please visit [this site](#). All data and statistics about COVID-19 are maintained by the Butte-Silver Bow Health Department.



Montana Tech is excited to invite families of new and returning parents to campus for the 2021 Family Weekend. The fun-filled weekend, which will run from October 8 through October 10 will include events both on campus and in the community.



Montana Tech will host Trades & Technology Day at its Highlands Campus on October 7, 2021 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. All Southwest Montana high school students are invited to attend. For more information, please contact Bernie Phelps at bphelps@mtech.edu.



Montana Tech looks forward to welcoming the Reverend Jamie Washington for two days of engaging and rich presentations and dialogue. Montana Tech looks forward to welcoming the Reverend Jamie Washington for two days of engaging and rich presentations and dialogue. Washington is a nationally acclaimed speaker, author, educator, and pastor with over 36 years of experience in inspiring and empowering communities. The LEAD Team, ASMT, and others will be developing a robust schedule including workshops for students, faculty, staff, and the community to make the most of our opportunity to learn with him. Be on the lookout for more information.

Rev. Jamie Washington, president and founder of the Washington Consulting Group (WCG), who the Economist named one of the Top 10 Global Diversity Consultants globally, will visit the Montana Tech campus from October 26-28th.



What a great start to the fall sports season for our Oredigger student-athletes.

Women's golf has finished in third place in the first two conference meets of the year.

Becca Richtman won the Frontier Conference Preview Meet in Dillon and was named the Frontier Conference Runner of the Week. The Oredigger women's Cross Country Team is

receiving votes in the NAIA Coaches' Top 25 Poll. Richtman also won the Montana Open in Missoula and the women finished second to Montana State and won against the University of Montana, MSU-Billings, and Carroll College. The Oredigger women were the top Frontier school at the meet. This was the first time in program history that the Oredigger women beat Montana and Carroll College. Richtman was named the Frontier Conference Runner of the Week for the second straight week.

The men's cross country team finished in second at the Frontier Conference Preview meet and took fifth at the Montana Open.

Football is 1-3 on the season after falling to No. 23 Montana Western for Homecoming. First year Head Coach Kyle Samson got the first victory of his head coaching career when the Oredigger defeated then-No. 24 Rocky Mountain 31-29 in Billings two weeks ago.

Volleyball is ranked No. 15 in the most recent NAIA Coaches Top 25 Poll and opened the Frontier Conference season on Friday against No. 10 Providence. The Orediggers lost to the Argos 3-1.

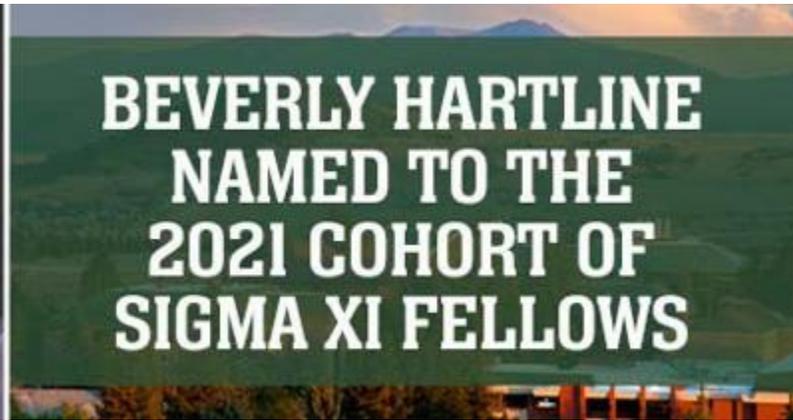




Montana Technological University student Kaden H. Cox has been selected by the International Lineman's Rodeo Association (ILRA) Scholarship Committee as the recipient of the Bob Rengal Scholarship.

As the recipient, Cox is invited to attend the International Lineman Rodeo on Friday, October 15, 2021 at the Overland Park Convention Center in Leawood, KS. The competition will take place at the Ag Hall of Fame Rodeo Grounds in Bonner Springs, KS.

Cox, from Craig, Colorado, is in the Pre-Apprenticeship Line Program at Montana Tech's Highlands Campus.



Montana Technological University, faculty emeriti, Beverly Hartline Ph.D., has been named to the 2021 cohort of Sigma Xi fellows. Sigma Xi is the scientific research honor society.

The fellows will be recognized during the Annual Meeting and Student Research Conference virtually, November 4–7, 2021. The Fellow of Sigma Xi distinction is awarded competitively to members whose peers have recognized. Fellows must be active (dues-paying), full members for the last ten years continuously, or a life member with distinguished service to Sigma Xi and outstanding contributions to the scientific enterprise.

Dr. Hartline was nominated for distinguished accomplishments and tireless efforts to build research capacity, champion and enhance diversity, science education, outreach, and promote mentorship and honor in Science.



The Weekly Update has been a great communication tool to keep the campus informed about news, updates, and events. I would encourage you to keep sending information to include in the Update to weeklyupdate@mtech.edu.



Have you stopped by the new Marcus Daly Dining Hall? The new hall is bright and open and a great place to come together with your fellow Orediggers. Enjoy the Chef's Table, the salad bar, the pizza or deli station, the grill, or dessert, which includes soft serve ice cream! Stop by the dining hall to experience outstanding food in an inviting atmosphere. Explore all that Sodexo offers [here](#).

