



January 30, 2023

Greetings and I hope you're staying warm.

As individuals, the commencement of a new year and semester provide an opportunity to reflect, check-in, and assess where we are in life or more simply said, our purpose. The start of the new year also provides us an opportunity as an institution to evaluate our progress and plan for the future.

Our mission is to be the institution of opportunity and innovation. In this edition of the Chancellor Check-in, you'll learn about the Mountains and Plains Innovation Alliance, become acquainted with mental health services through Mantra Healthcare, and the MUS Dependent Tuition Waiver and remote work policy, and celebrate Giving Tuesday, the success of our student-athletes and much more.

It's been said that purpose is the place where passion and the needs of society connect. This week is the Spring Career Fair, and I cannot think of anything that better demonstrates our vision or our purpose.

With gratitude,

Les



With your help and support, Montana Tech raised over \$82,390 dollars during #GivingTuesday! Because of you, we added \$10,300 to the Kasperick Emergency Fund to help Montana Tech students in crisis. An additional \$22,884 was given to the Tech Vision Student Aid Fund to help recruit the next generation of

GIVING TUESDAY

Orediggers and enrich the experience of our current students. The Montana Tech Food Pantry raised \$10,200 to support our Montana Tech students suffering from food insecurity. The Butte Endowed Scholarship grew by \$25,067 to make the dream of a Montana Tech education a reality for Butte students. And you went over and above with an additional \$13,939 for programs, departments, and scholarships at Montana Technological University.

Thank you for supporting the mission of the Montana Tech Foundation to support the students, programs and initiatives of Montana Tech.



MOUNTAINS AND PLAINS UNIVERSITY INNOVATION ALLIANCE

The university research leadership in the region have been working to stand up an organization to help organize our collaborations, as we collectively work to advance the region's innovation capacity. The collaboration has formed The Mountains and Plains University Innovation Alliance, a partnership among thirteen research universities to develop new innovation ecosystems and economic growth opportunities in the Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming region.

Already, our institutions have connected researchers across the region to explore opportunities in advanced materials science, quantum computing, forest and rangeland management, cybersecurity, predictive and precision agriculture, and other fields. Our hope is that the MPUIA can lead to yet deeper collaborations in the region.



PROVOST SEARCH UPDATE

The search for the next provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs is underway. Applications for the position are coming in and the committee will begin the review process in the next two weeks. While interview dates are not yet confirmed, the committee anticipates campus visits to begin the week of March 20th.



LEGISLATIVE WEEK IN REVIEW

Each Friday, OCHE releases an update about the week at the Legislature. You can find all updates [here](#).



MANTRA HEALTHCARE SERVICES

Montana Tech has partnered with Mantra Health, a telemental health provider that offers virtual mental healthcare options for students during daytime, evening, and weekend hours. If you encounter a student who is in distress or in search of mental health support, you can now share these new offerings.

Mantra Health offers:

- Virtual therapy services with licensed clinicians
- Direct student sign-up for therapy (instructions below)

How do students access the services?

Students can sign up for Mantra by going to app.mantrahealth.com and creating an account using their Montana Tech email address.

Who can I reach out to if I have questions?

If a student is experiencing a technical problem or has questions about Mantra's Patient Portal or offerings, they can reach out to hi@mantrahealth.com or call 800-464-2083.



ATHLETICS UPDATE

Women's Basketball

First-year head coach Jeff Graham is over halfway into his first season with the Montana Tech women's basketball team. Coach Graham is 2-7 during Frontier Conference action this season and has a 6-13 overall record. The Orediggers won their first game of the season in an exciting overtime victory over Dickinson State for coach Graham's first Oredigger victory. The team won its first Frontier Conference game in a come-from-behind win against the University of Providence, winning 69-61. The Orediggers continue to improve and have played their best basketball during the Frontier schedule.

Men's Basketball

The Tech men's basketball team is off to their best start in school history. Currently, No. 12 in the NAIA Coaches' Top 25, the Orediggers are 19-3 overall this season and have a 7-2 conference record. Tech had just one loss during the nonconference season. The 84-80 loss came against then-No. 1 Arizona Christian on their home court. The Orediggers have won their last 25 home games, a school record, and posted a nine-game winning streak earlier this season, tying the longest win streak in program history.

Cross Country

Cross country runners competed at the NAIA Cross Country Championship. Hailey Nielson and Edwin Kipainoi both finished in the top 40 runners earning NAIA All-American honors. Nielson finished 35th in a field of 326 runners and Kipainoi took 31st out of 318 participants. Montana Tech placed one woman and three men on the Daktronik NAIA Cross Country Scholar-Athlete list. Sophomore Hailey Nielson was the Oredigger for the women's team making the grade. Nielson also made the NAIA Cross Country

Championships after finishing second in the Frontier Conference Championship meet. The three scholar-athletes for the men are Ian Barville, Jonathon Hansen, and Justin Morgan.

Football

The Montana Tech Oredigger football team led the Frontier Conference in all-conference selections as well as first team honorees. The Frontier Conference teams are determined by the leagues head coaches. Tech led the conference with 13 all-conference selections which included a league leading eight on the first team. The Orediggers first team selections included three on offense and defense along with two from special teams. The second team honorees consisted of three from the offense and one from both defense and special teams. By class, the Orediggers had four seniors, three juniors, and three sophomores chosen. Montana Tech's football team also placed 19 on the 2022 Football Scholar Athlete Award national honor roll.



Montana Tech, ASMT, and Carroll College have organized a food drive to stock our food pantries. ASMT will donate the remaining food to the Butte Emergency Food Bank, Rescue Mission, and Salvation Army. We are excited to announce the first year of the Can the Saints/Can the Diggers. Food collection will end on February 9. You have two weeks to collect food. Food collection boxes are located throughout the campus and Butte. Campus locations include outside the Food Pantry in the SUB, the lobby of the Mill, the main floor of the SSC, the URC, the HPER lobby, outside the Library, the MBMG in the NRB, and Highlands College. WET, ACE Hardware, Dig City, NorthWestern Energy, Headframes, the Butte Country Club, and Three Bears Alaska have bins at their businesses. Pass the word on to your peers, friends, coworkers, and family to drop off food at any of the above locations! Let's all step up and give back to our community! A box for food donations will also be at the final match-up game between Tech and Carroll on February 9 in the HPER to conclude the competition.



A banner with a background image of a university campus. The text "DEPENDENT TUITION WAIVER" is written in a bold, green, sans-serif font across the center.

DEPENDENT TUITION WAIVER

Until now, eligible employees have received a 50 percent tuition waiver for an IRS-qualified dependent, but only one dependent at a time. The revised policy enhances this benefit in two ways. Employees no longer must wait five years to become eligible for use of the waiver. Eligibility will now begin after four months of employment at a MUS educational unit or agency. In addition, use of the waiver is no longer limited to one dependent at a time. Eligible employees now can use the waiver for up to two dependents at a time in accordance with policy provisions. The policy, **now in effect for spring semester 2023**, is viewable [here](#).

Please submit your completed Dependent Tuition Waiver Forms to the HR office for approval. The forms can be located by logging into My.mtech.edu and clicking on the Administrative Services icon on the left hand side menu. If you have questions, please email humanresources@mtech.edu or call 406-496-4380.

A banner with a background image of a university campus. The text "REMOTE WORK POLICY" is written in a bold, brown, sans-serif font across the center.

REMOTE WORK POLICY

Campuses of the MUS have used limited remote work arrangements where some employees perform work from locations other than a central office on campus or premises operated by the MUS. A policy has now been adopted for remote work within the MUS. The policy is in effect and is viewable at: <https://mus.edu/borpol/bor700/715.pdf>.

Under the new policy, each campus will put forward guidelines for remote work to balance flexibility with campus needs to serve students and the community. Montana Tech's Human Resources Department will continue to follow the university's telecommute policy which can be found on the intranet under my.mtech.edu under Administrative Services.

If you have questions, email Vanessa Van Dyk at vvandyk@mtech.edu.



DUAL ENROLLMENT COURSES

A new dual enrollment course, Introduction to the Mineral Industries (MIN 191), for Montana high school students was launched this spring with 15 students enrolled. To learn more about Montana Tech's dual enrollment offerings, visit this site or contact Kinsley Rafish at krafish@mtech.edu.



OPERATION NEXT

The Next Frontier Advanced Manufacturing Institute (NFAMI) and Highlands College have partnered to bring the Operation Next program to Montana. NFAMI was formed in 2022 to engage, lift, and inspire transitioning members of our armed services and veterans with skills-based training for advanced manufacturing. The first cohort of 30 students began their coursework in a hybrid program with in-class training and virtual learning in January.

[Read more](#)



TASKER PRESENTS AT NORTH AMERICAN ARCTIC GOOSE CONFERENCE



Montana Technological University graduate student Bailey Tasker recently presented at the 2022 North American Arctic Goose Conference (NAAGC) in Corpus Christi, Texas. The conference, hosted by the Arctic Goose Joint Venture, had some of the leaders in the waterfowl science world from across the continent in attendance.

Tasker, from Butte, presented an oral presentation of her graduate work developing a fall forecast model for snow geese migration. This model is an important step to advancing the waterfowl protection efforts at the Berkeley Pit in Butte, Montana. The work is a collaboration between Montana Technological University, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Western Ecological Research Center - Dixon Field Station, Environment and Climate Change Canada - Banks Island Project, Montana Resources, and Atlantic Richfield. [Read more](#)



PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

RAPID TRAINING COURSE

SIGN UP NOW!



Accelerate Montana and Highlands College of Montana Tech announced today the second in-person Production Assistant Rapid Training course to take place on February 25 and 26 in Butte, Montana. This course will enable Montanans to quickly gain the introductory skills needed to join the state's fast-growing film and media industry.

Read more or register for the course [here](#).



CAREER FAIR

JANUARY 31ST, 2023
8:00 AM to 2:30 PM | HPER



PREPARE TODAY:

- Register in DR 2.0
- Upload Your Resume
- Attend Career Labs
- Research Companies
- Dress for Success
- Be Confident & Positive





ADVANCING

Montana Technological University



FEBRUARY 8, 2023



February 8, 2023 | 3:00 pm | SSC

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Montana Technological University Foundation
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