



*September 20, 2022*

Greetings, and welcome to the fall semester!

As I shared with our campus at the Advancing Tech Forum, I'm excited about all the good that is occurring at Montana Tech, and I look forward to what will hopefully be a normal year. The previous two falls were anything, but ordinary and my appreciation for our faculty, staff, and students couldn't be greater.

Over the summer, I picked up "What we owe the future," a book by philosopher William Macaskill. His premise is one of longtermism or put simply, the idea that positively influencing the long-term future is a key moral priority of our time. As we know, our mission is to prepare leaders in science, engineering, and technology to benefit humanity while meeting the changing needs of society. In this edition of the Chancellor Check-in, you will meet individuals who are doing just that.

Welcome, and thank you for all you do to educate and prepare bright, hard-working, and determined individuals for meaningful careers and successful lives. We can all be proud of what we accomplish together.



Kenneth Lee, Ph.D., PE, hit the ground running as the new dean of the Schools of Mines and Engineering in July, and has set in motion plans to expand global educational opportunities for students and faculty at Montana Technological University, grow incoming classes, and improve retention.

Dr. Lee has more than a decade of experience building affordable and accessible international programs that offer students of all economic backgrounds cross-cultural experiences around the globe.

Dr. Lee comes to Montana Tech from Western New England University, where he spent ten years as Founding Chair of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department. He received all his engineering degrees from the University of California Irvine and has postdoctoral experience from Princeton University.



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Tommy and Jaime Heppler have joined the Montana Tech team. Jaime will serve as the Chief Executive Officer of the Foundation and Tommy will serve the Foundation as a new Associate Director of Athletic Development for Digger Athletics.

Tommy and Jaime are joined by their children, Elouise and James.

Welcome to Montana Tech Tommy, Jaime, Elouise, and James!



## WELCOME TO THE MONTANA TECH FAMILY

The following faculty and staff members have joined our team since January 2022: Trenin Bayless, Cynthia Bigbee, Kimberly Bolhuis, Lindsey Brittain, Mario Caccia, Daniel Callahan, Brandon Cassidy, Jin Yong Choi, Samm Cox, Kyle Cravatis, Gregory Davies, Scott Davis, Ryan Davison, David DeVillier, Wei Ding, Augusta Edwards, Craig Elliott, Brandon Gerome, Jeffrey Graham, Dalit Guscio, Brianie Gutierrez, Nicolaus Hemenway, Jaime Heppler, Tommy Heppler, Jason Herndon, Ryan Hessler, Melissa Holmes, Rose James, Jeffrey John, Felicia Karas, Breeanne Lanes, Kenneth Lee, Ryan Morris, Ronald Muffick, Eduardo Pantoja, Christina Pavlovich, Rachel Pederson, Kelly Prystajko, Jackson Quarles, Nancy Rafferty-Jones, David Rathgeber, Izabell Roggeman, Amanda Rossi, Erica Rude, John Sanford, Lilyanna Segura, Heather Skocilich, Lexi Steele, Justin Sukiennik, Andrew Traut, Adrian Van Rythoven, Matthew Vitale, Gary Viviani, Morgan Vouk, Aric Williams, and Jill Yoder.



## MINING ENGINEERING ALUMNUS ESTABLISHES \$1M ENDOWMENT

Arthur H. "Art" Ditto, a Montana Tech alumnus and retired international mining executive, has established a \$1 million endowment that will be used to fund scholarships for students studying in fields that support the mining extraction industry. Ditto, has pledged to donate \$1 million over the next two years to establish the Arthur Ditto Scholarship Endowment, which will be managed by the Montana Technological University Foundation.

Ditto graduated from Montana Tech in 1964 with a Bachelor of Science in Mining Engineering. His subsequent career spanned four decades around the globe. His work was vital in developing mines in the Salt Lake City area in the 1980s. More recently, Ditto held executive positions with Katanga Mining Ltd., that rebuilt and operated major copper/cobalt mines and extraction facilities in the Congo, and Kinross Gold Corporation, a Toronto-based company with operations in the U.S., Canada, Chile, Brazil, Africa, and the Russian Far East.



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**THANK YOU FOR A GREAT DAYONE!**

Thank you to everyone who took part in this year's Montana Tech Giving Event, DayOne, on the 8th and 9th of September. DayOne is a celebration of our Montana Tech history and future as well an opportunity for our students, departments, programs, clubs and initiatives to raise funds in focused areas. This year's event raised **\$326,184** over two days from 621 donors. We are incredibly grateful to all our matching donors for helping invest in our university and help propel the momentum of this year's event, over \$130,00 in matching funds were earned throughout DayOne 2022.



## FACULTY DEVELOP OPEN TEXTBOOK FOR INTERMEDIATE COLLEGE WRITING COURSES



Much of what happens in college courses is tied to textbooks, from reading and writing assignments, to course projects and lesson activities, to quizzes and exams. Faced with the choice to pay for living expenses or college textbooks, university students may understandably delay or forgo the purchase of pricey commercially produced texts—a decision that can undermine their success. Faculty wishing to remove the burden of this difficult decision and reduce university costs for students fortunately have a new resource available in the form of

*Intermediate College Writing: Building and Practicing Mindful Writing Skills*, an open textbook developed by Montana Technological University writing instructors Dawn Atkinson and Stacey Corbitt.

Recognizing the need for a no-cost publication that integrates study skills work with reviews of key topics, such as academic integrity, and thoughtfully designed writing opportunities, authors Atkinson and Corbitt designed the textbook—available at <https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/1193>—for use in intermediate college writing courses. The textbook's Creative Commons license means instructors can adopt it as is, opt to use select chapters, or customize it for their own writing courses. The book is the second in an open-textbook series produced by this faculty writing team.

[Read more](#)



## UPWARD BOUND GRANT RECEIVED

Montana Tech will receive an Upward Bound grant from the U.S. Department of Education for \$1,713,465 for the next five years to provide support to help low-income students who would be the first members of their families to earn degrees to prepare for and enroll in college.

Montana Tech's Upward Bound has served 1,794 students over the last 26 years, with 88% graduating from high school and earning college degrees successfully, a rate more than doubles the state and national average.

[Read more](#)

A horizontal banner with a background of colorful flowers. The text "CFWEP RECEIVES GRANT" is written in a bold, green, sans-serif font across the center of the banner.

## CFWEP RECEIVES GRANT

The Clark Fork Watershed Education Program (CFWEP) recently received a three-year \$60,000 Capacity-Building Challenge Grant from the Dennis & Phyllis Washington Foundation. This grant will help launch their development plan to continue to serve students in the Clark Fork and Blackfoot watersheds and will allow CFWEP to further its mission of “expanding environmental literacy and stewardship through field-based science and research experiences.”

[Read more](#)

A horizontal banner with a background of a green tent and a map. The text "STEPAN NAMED AD OF THE YEAR" is written in a bold, green, sans-serif font across the center of the banner.

## STEPAN NAMED AD OF THE YEAR



Athletic Director Matt Stepan was named the Frontier Conference Athletic Director of the Year for the 2021-22 conference year. Stepan will be the Frontier's nominee for the national honor.

He has served in the AD role since September 1, 2017. Before that, Stepan worked three years as external associate athletic director. Stepan played defensive end for the Orediggers from 1999-2003 under Coach Bob Green, earning all-conference honors in 2002 and 2003. Stepan led the Frontier Conference in sacks as a junior and senior, was a four-time Frontier Conference Defensive Player of the Week, and was the winner of the prestigious Ed Simonich Award in 2004.

The Athletic Director of the Year Award is given annually to an athletic director for his or her accomplishments in all facets of athletic administration over the course of the previous year.

Congratulations Matt!



Jeff Graham has been hired as the head basketball coach for the Orediggers. Graham built a powerhouse program at Belt High School accumulating a 358-42 overall record that includes six state championships, seven divisional titles, 11 conference titles, and 11 district titles in 15 seasons. For his efforts, Graham was named the Montana Coaches Association Coach of the Year six times in girls' basketball.

Graham was also the head football coach at Belt for the last 15 seasons, head track coach for nine years, and the Athletic Director since 2012. Graham's Huskies posted an 89-51 record on the gridiron including four divisional championships.



[Read more](#)



## GAMMONS WINS CAMERON-HALL COOPER MEDAL



A paper authored by Montana Technological University researchers has won the Association for Applied Geochemists' newest medal.

This new medal was established in 2019 and is awarded to the author of the most outstanding scientific publication in the journal *Geochemistry: Exploration, Environment, Analysis (GEEA)*. The GEEA Editorial Board recommends nominees from those papers published during the year; the members of the AAG Awards and Medals Committee then vote on the recommendations, and a majority vote must then approve their selection of the AAG Council. The council approved the award in July.

Other coauthors of the paper include grad student Kyle Eastman and Dr. Simon Poulson of the University of Nevada-Reno.

A medal and citation will be presented at the 29th International Applied Geochemistry Symposium in Vina del Mar, Chile this October 23-28. The paper will also be available to read through Open Access via The Geological Society of London.



## EGLOFF HONORED

Governor Greg Gianforte recognized three veterans in Butte with the 2021 Montana Governor's Veteran Commendation. The award was presented to James Long, David Jon Reisenauer and Montana Tech instructor Matt Egloff.



As a member of the U.S Army, Matt Egloff served in Korea and Germany, before becoming a licensed professional engineer, and engineering instructor at Montana Tech. While supporting Butte-Silver Bow 4H shooting sports, he worked with many individuals, including then-junior shooter Nick Mowrer, who later competed in the 2012 and 2020 Olympics. Egloff has also worked with the Butte-Silver Bow Crimestoppers, Western Montana Veterans Home Foundation, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1448, and Butte United Veterans Council (UVC).

The Montana Governor's Veteran Commendation recognizes outstanding Montana veterans who selflessly served in the U.S. Armed Forces and subsequently made a positive impact in their community. Thirty-one veterans received the award in 2021.



## ROBOTIC MINING CLUB WINS TOP AWARD

Montana Tech's Robotic Mining Club recently won the top mining award at the NASA Lunabotics Competition at the Kennedy Space Center, with 38 universities competing for the top honors. The competition involved designing and building a robot to dig through a simulated lunar surface, to deposit as much gravel simulant as possible in two 15-minute runs. Two teams, Montana Technological University and the University of Alabama, qualified for the on-site mining award. Montana Tech sent five students to the competition in Cape Canaveral. Each team was given two competition runs. During Montana Tech's first run, tragedy struck when the robot, named "She's A BUTTE," failed to move due to a communication error. On the second run, the robot performed admirably and deposited significant amounts of lunar gravel into the deposit area. The club was one of only four or five teams to be able to deposit the gravel successfully. To qualify, teams had to deposit at least a kilogram of the gravel in the depiction sieve. Official numbers are still pending for each group.

[Read more](#)



# CHAMPIONS OF CHARACTER INSTITUTION

Champions of Character®  
**FIVE-STAR INSTITUTION**



**2021-2022**

**SILVER**

Montana Technological University was named a Champions of Character Five-Star Award winner for 2021-22. Institutions are measured on a demonstrated commitment to Champions of Character and earn points in character training, conduct in competition, academic focus, character recognition and character promotion. Institutions earned points based on exceptional student-athlete grade point averages and by having minimal to no ejections during competition throughout the course of the academic year.



# CONGRATULATIONS BUTTE MINERS

Congratulations to faculty members and Butte Miners' baseball coaches Jim Leprowse and Dale Kingrey and assistant coach Reese Cox on their success this season with the Butte Miners' baseball team. The Miners started the season 0-4 and went on to win the district tournament, the state tournament, and the Northwest Regional Tournament. We're proud of the entire team but especially players, Quinn Cox, Eric Hart, Aidan Lee, Egan Lester, George Riojas, and Evan Starr, who are part of the Montana Tech family. Congratulations on your success and impact on our community. What an incredible season!



**MONTANA**  
TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY