



Greetings Orediggers,

What a monumental few weeks we've had at Montana Tech! We hosted our colleagues from the Montana University System along with the Board of Regents, who on Thursday, September 21, unanimously approved advancing the School of Mines and Engineering from a school to a college and to rename it the Lance College of Mines and Engineering. The change from a school to a college has been in discussion for quite some time, and this change will not only elevate the stature of mining and engineering at Montana Tech, but far beyond.

We welcomed a record number of participants and industry partners to our fall career fair. That same week, we also celebrated Homecoming and the 2023 class of distinguished alumni with our very own Coach Bob Green receiving the Chancellor's Award of Distinction. The American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP) won the bed races, and the Orediggers beat Eastern Oregon in football.

These are just a few of the happenings from the last few weeks, and there is a lot more in this edition of the Chancellor Check-in. Thank you for an incredible beginning to our academic year. I am grateful for your energy, commitment, and for being part of the Montana Tech family.

Les





HISTORIC DAY ON CAMPUS

Last week on the campus of Montana Tech, the Montana Board of Regents unanimously voted to rename Montana Tech's School of Mines and Engineering to the Lance College of Mines and Engineering. After the vote, students, faculty, staff, alumni, friends, and dignitaries from across the state celebrated the historic event.

The naming comes after Ryan and Lisa Lance gave the university a transformational gift of \$31 million. The Lances have a passion for Montana Tech and for providing the opportunity for more Montana students to pursue an education at Montana Tech. The donation will provide 50 Montana resident students and transfers with a four-year, \$4,000 per year scholarship. The gift will also support an endowed chair in energy. The Lance Energy Chair, the first of its kind at Montana Tech, will expand Tech's expertise in STEM and establish the institution as a leader in energy, environment, and sustainability. The position will foster collaboration with academic programs across campus and develop unique multidisciplinary opportunities to expand research, modernize curriculum, and further industry engagement and commercialization. All to help shape tomorrow's energy workforce. The donation will also impact student-athletes as Digger Athletics received \$1 million towards athletic scholarships, generating greater access for student-athletes to compete and excel on and off the field.

[ABC Fox Montana news story](#) | [NBC Montana news story](#)

[Learn more about the Lance Scholars Program >](#)



LANCE ENCOURAGES HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO FOLLOW THEIR PASSION

ConocoPhillips CEO Ryan Lance told students from western Montana high schools to follow their passion as they choose what to do after graduation, in a question and answer session hosted Friday by Montana Tech. Schools in attendance included Butte High School, Butte Central High School, C.M. Russell High School and Great Falls High School in Great Falls, Jefferson High School, and Anaconda Jr./Senior High.

“You make a couple of big decisions in your life and you are coming upon one: what are you going to *do*?” Lance told the students.

[Read more >](#)

[Watch the Presentation >](#)



PANELISTS STRESS INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO MEET WORLD'S GROWING ENERGY DEMANDS

National industry leaders stressed the importance of an interdisciplinary approach to solving global energy issues in a panel hosted at Montana Technological University.

Panelists included Chairman and CEO of ConocoPhillips Ryan Lance, founder and CEO of Validus Energy Skye Callantine, Engineering Director at Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories Bill Glennon, and Interim Director of the Center for Environmental Remediation and Assessment Dr. Robin Bullock.

[Read more >](#)

[Watch the Energy Panel >](#)



NO. 15 MONTANA TECH MAKES A STATEMENT, KNOCKS OFF NO. 7 COLLEGE OF IDAHO

Story by Gavin Derkatch, Photo by Joseph Scheller, The Montana Standard

The Montana Tech football program has been taking gradual steps towards the top of the Frontier Conference in recent years.

On Saturday afternoon, the Orediggers made a statement.

They have arrived.

No. 15 Tech (3-1, 2-0 Frontier) knocked off No. 7 College of Idaho (3-1, 1-1) 44-35 at Bob Green Field.

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BOB GREEN RECEIVES CHANCELLOR'S AWARD OF DISTINCTION

Former Oredigger football coach Bob Green received Montana Tech's highest honor, the Chancellor's Award of Distinction, during homecoming weekend. Coach Green was honored at a banquet along with festivities before and during the football game.

Established in 2021, the award recognizes individuals who have achieved the most distinguished personal and professional accomplishments while also serving and bringing distinction to Montana Tech.

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Congratulations



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

Montana Tech's Environmental Engineering Department celebrated its 50th anniversary during homecoming week with a technical workshop, plaque dedication, banquet, and festivities at the football game.

The Environmental Engineering program was approved by the Montana Board of

Regents in 1972 and has since produced nearly 1,000 who are making a difference in Butte, across Montana, and around the world.

Montana Tech's Environmental Engineering program is unique in that it is the only standalone program in the nation that has existed for fifty years. It received ABET accreditation in 1982.

Congratulations to the faculty, staff, students, and alumni. We look forward to seeing what the next 50 years look like!



NEW ELECTRON MICROSCOPE

Researchers can explore worlds invisible to the naked eye after the delivery of a multifunctional transmission electron microscope. The microscope significantly expands opportunities for the campus community, state of Montana, and Rocky Mountain West. Montana Tech purchased the \$1 million microscope with funds from the National Science Foundation that were acquired via a highly competitive grant process.

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BUILDING GREEN ENERGY

Montana Tech, Montana Resources, and Butte-Silver Bow have passed the first hurdle in pursuing a Department of Energy grant that would deliver 63 megawatts of power to the university, the Montana Resources' Continental Mine, and buildings within the Butte community via solar power. In addition to providing clean energy, the project would be used as an example of how abandoned and operating mine lands can be repurposed for green energy development.

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UNIVERSITY PRESENTS DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

Three outstanding alumni will be recognized during Homecoming Week as Distinguished Alumni of Montana Technological University. The awards are conferred by the Montana Tech Alumni Association.

Over the past 123 years, Montana Tech alumni have used their connections and opportunities to help change the world. This year's honorees have been influential in the fields of energy and environmental engineering. They include Tom Vivian (Petroleum Engineering, B.S., 1982, Project Engineering and Management, 2003), Dr. Robin Bullock (Environmental Engineering, B.S., 1984, M.S. 1991), and Josh Vincent (Environmental Engineering, B.S., 1997).

[Read More >](#)



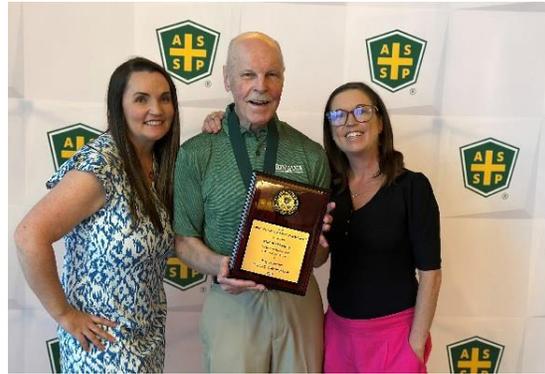
IT'S A GREAT DAY TO BE AN OREDIGGER



YOUNG RECOGNIZED BY SME

Courtney Young, Lewis S. Prater Distinguished Professor, received the 2023 SME Mineral & Metallurgical Processing Division Unit Committee Best Presentation award at the SME Annual Conference.

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JENSEN HONORED

The American Society of Safety Professionals bestowed the honor of Fellow on Montana Tech Professor Roger Jensen. The award is the Society's highest honor.

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BIG SKIES. BIGGER IDEAS.





OREDIGGERS MAKE UNFORGETTABLE MEMORIES IN AUSTRIA

Lasting international friendships, an appreciation for foreign culture, and a lifelong zest for the opportunity to travel are just a few benefits Orediggers received through Montana Tech's 2023 Summer Study-abroad Program in Austria.

The trip took students to three countries, with day trips to Venice, Italy and to Bratislava, Slovakia. It included lessons in conversational German and project management.

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RESTORATION GRADUATE STUDENT'S WORK DOCUMENTING POLLINATORS HAS SEVERAL USEFUL APPLICATIONS

It's noon on a June day at the Bluebird Trail, just west of Montana Tech's campus, and restoration graduate student Nick Rasschaert is armed with a butterfly net, black light, notebook, and materials to refill his pit traps. At the surface level Rasschaert is counting pollinators to help prevent their worldwide decline, but if you dig a little deeper, multidisciplinary applications of his research come into focus, including combating world hunger and finding better restoration techniques for contaminated mining waste sites.

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BIOLOGY ALUM SAYS BERKLEY PIT WATERFOWL PROTECTION PROGRAM SPARKED PASSION FOR BIRDING

Associate Professor Stella Capoccia jokes that Shawn Moorman (Biological Sciences, '23) could barely differentiate duck from a goose when the pair started working together two years ago.

In the short time Moorman spent working on the Berkeley Pit Waterfowl Protection Program, his skills have grown so much that Capoccia now often consults with him to identify photos of birds that are a bit more challenging.

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STUDENTS CONNECT WITH MATERIALS ENGINEERING THROUGH INNOVATIVE NEW SUMMER CAMP

The Department of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering hosted 23 students from Montana, California, Pennsylvania, and New York for its inaugural Materials Summer Camp in June. The free overnight camp connected high school juniors and seniors with materials science. Students stayed in the dorms

and participated in numerous activities showing the need for materials engineers.

Students explored the broad range of career options for materials engineers and metallurgists through field trips. The copper-mining process was highlighted in a visit to Montana Resources. REC Silicon also gave the camp participants a tour.

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MONTANA TECH IS A PLACE OF PURPOSE, HOME TO UNCOMMON THINKING, RESEARCH, INNOVATION, AND IDEAS.



FIND YOUR ADVENTURE



FALL TECH DAY

Montana Tech will host its upcoming

Nearly one-third of Montana is public land, with 169,829 miles of river, all available for the enjoyment of the people, but it can be challenging learning how to unlock knowledge about access, safety, and proper gear. Butte makes a great home base for adventure, but it's not uncommon to need a little help getting started. Director of Outdoor Recreation Cynthia (Katie) Bigbee strives to connect the community with opportunities.

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STEM-focused open house, Tech Day, on Friday, November 17, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tech Day is a one-of-a-kind, hands-on college visit experience for prospective students. Students are invited to the main campus in Uptown Butte, Montana, to experience a day of interactive laboratory breakout sessions, campus tours, and a chance to explore academic areas of interest.

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Upcoming Events

- 9/27:** Bear Awareness Training (11:30 am, Courtyard)
- 9/29:** Volleyball vs MSU-Northern (7:00 pm, HPER)
- 9/30:** Volleyball vs Rocky Mountain (2:00 pm, HPER)
- 10/2-3:** Golf at Beartooth Invitational at Laurel Golf Club
- 10/4:** Walk to School Day | Volleyball vs Montana Western (7:00 pm, HPER)
- 10/5:** Trades & Technology Day (9:00 am-2:00 pm, Highlands College)
- 10/6-8:** Family Weekend
- 10/7:** Football vs Montana Western (1:00 pm, Alumni Coliseum) Hall of Fame Game
- 10/17:** Advancing Tech Forum (3:00 pm, SSC)
- 10/18:** Academic Day of Integrity
- 10/20:** Volleyball vs University of Providence (7:00 pm, HPER)



MISSION

As Montana's Special Focus Institution, Montana Technological University provides a transformative student experience by developing leaders and advancing science, engineering, and technology, with the purpose of benefiting humanity while meeting the changing needs of society.

OUR GOALS



Student Success



Programs of Distinction



A Healthy and Vibrant
Campus Ecosystem

MONTANA
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