



August 15, 2022

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

Our 2nd annual Professional Development Day is **Tuesday, August 16**. The day will start and end in the Student Union Building's Dining Hall. A to-go breakfast will be available from 7:30-8:00 am for employees who need to be at their desks. A campus breakfast and kickoff of the new academic year will start at 8:00 am. Throughout the day, you will find a broad range of sessions that will help you make the most of the next semester. You can find the **AGENDA** and **REGISTRATION** link at <https://www.mtech.edu/facultystaff/leadership/professional-development-day.html>. Most sessions will be available online for those who aren't able to attend in person. We can't wait to see you there!

MOVE-IN DAY VOLUNTEERS

Move-in day for new students is **Wednesday, August 17**, from 9:00 am-12:00 pm in the residence halls. We would love to have faculty and staff help us welcome our newest Orediggers and their families to Montana Tech. Would you be able to be a greeter or help students settle into their new rooms? If you, please contact Annie Telling at atelling@mtech.edu.

TURNITIN TRAINING SESSION

Montana Technological University subscribes to Turnitin, text-matching identification software that can help instructors detect the presence of plagiarism in student papers. This powerful tool also simplifies remote assignment submission and has built-in electronic grading functions that significantly speed up the marking process. The next Turnitin training session is scheduled for **Wednesday, August 17** from 3:30 until 5:00 in Engineering Hall room 106. Please consider attending this session.

PREVENTING DISTRACTED DRIVING COURSE

A Preventing Distracted Driving Course (live online) is offered every **Thursday from 9:00 am to 11:00 am via Zoom**. This is a very popular online class that teaches State employees the definition of distracted driving, what behavior modifications we can implement to protect ourselves, family, and friends out on the roadways. We also help you to realize that you as a driver have a choice, to drive safely or to drive distracted. Coming to a decision on this topic

just may save your life and the lives of others. The goal is to help you make the right decision. There is no cost to attend this class! Register here.

ON-CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT

Do you need to hire student employees? Student are already starting to look for on-campus employment this fall. Make sure your jobs are in front of them in DR 2.0. Log in at <https://mtech.12twenty.com/hire>. If you are new to 12Twenty, create your account at: <https://mtech.12twenty.com/Account/EmployerSignUp> to post jobs for this coming semester/academic school year. If you need assistance, please email your job posting to postjobs@mtech.edu. Thank you for your help to promote this to campus!

PUBLIC SERVICE LOAN FOREGIVENESS PROGRAM

As an employee of the Montana University System (MUS), you may qualify for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Program. PSLF is a federal program that forgives the remaining balance on direct loans after 120 qualifying monthly payments under a qualifying repayment plan while an individual is working full-time for a qualifying employer. The MUS is a qualifying PSLF employer.

Last year, the U.S. Department of Education announced a time-limited waiver to allow borrowers to receive credit for past periods of repayment that would otherwise not qualify for loan forgiveness. Under the temporary waiver, any prior period of repayment counts as a qualifying payment, regardless of loan program, repayment plan, or whether the payment was made in full or on time, provided the employment requirements are satisfied.

Many in the MUS may have applied for PSLF and had their application rejected because they did not meet the PSLF criteria. The MUS encourages employees who may be eligible for relief under the program to apply or reapply, even if an application was previously submitted and rejected by the U.S. Department of Education.

The waiver is only available for a limited time. The deadline to submit the PSLF Application for the waiver is **October 31, 2022**. Individual employees are responsible for submitting all necessary forms to the U.S. Department of Education. Requests for employment certification should be directed to campus human resources.

To provide additional clarity for eligibility and to assist a broader range of employees, the MUS will consider a teaching load of 9 credits or more per semester to be “full-time” employment for the purpose of PSLF. This interpretation aligns with the U.S. Department of Education’s recent proposal to overhaul the PSLF Program. The MUS’s interpretation of full-time employment is only applicable to PSLF through the waiver period or until the U.S. Department of Education adopts the revised definition of “full-time” employment as proposed, whichever occurs earlier. This definition only applies to the PSLF Program. It does not apply to benefit eligibility determinations in the MUS or for purposes of the Affordable Care Act or to faculty workload analysis or assignments.

More information, including a handy Help Tool to determine eligibility and FAQs about the PSLF program, is available here.