



**Minutes  
Montana Board of Regents  
Montana Technology University  
September 15-16, 2021**

**Wednesday, September 15**

Meeting convened at 8:18 am

Regents Present: Casey Lozar, Chair; Bob Nystuen; Brianne Rogers; Joyce Dombrowski, Todd Buchanan, Loren Bough, and Amy Sexton. Ex officio members include Commissioner of Higher Education Clayton Christian, Governor Greg Gianforte was excused, and Superintendent Elsie Arntzen.

Welcome and Comments by Chair Lozar

Chair Lozar welcomed all attendees to the meeting and extended appreciation to Chancellor Cook and the staff at MT Tech for hosting this meeting. He noted this as the first in-person meeting since the early days of the pandemic and thanked faculty, staff, and administrators for all their hard work and dedication these past 18 months. He further acknowledged and thanked Chancellor Cook for his commitment and leadership over the past two years. Chair Lozar took a moment to recognize and honor the life and legacy of Margie Thompson, a former Chair of the Board of Regents. He briefly reviewed the agenda, noting that the Commissioner and staff would present this year's MUS strategic initiatives, including Apply Montana Portal, Montana 10 Student Success Initiative, enhanced workforce development, and provide an update on Healthy MUS. The MUS operating budgets and requests for authorization to plan and design five new nursing programs will also be addressed. Lastly, Governor Gianforte and the Board of Education will take place the next day of the meeting.

Welcome by Chancellor Cook | Presentation

Chancellor Cook welcomed all attendees in-person and online to the meeting and Montana Tech's campus. Chancellor Cook described Montana Tech's 2019-2021 Vision, which focused on recruitment and the student experience, telling their story, positioning themselves for the future, and successfully navigating the COVID-19 pandemic. With the launch of the strategic enrollment plan, they have seen an eight percent increase in first-year students, and eighty-nine percent of students reenrolled this Fall. Further developments include a comprehensive advising program, expanding student employment, and facilities focusing on food service. He announced the launch of two new athletic programs, cross-country and track and field.

Chancellor Cook spoke to the 11,000 constituent surveys and stakeholders' analyses completed to create their campus message. Results determined the quality of education and career success to be essential. With a focus on campus branding and messaging, Montana Tech completed a brand launch last Fall and a website redesign. When focusing on positioning the University for the future, Chancellor Cook looked at the



leadership team and identified vacancies. He has hired seven key leadership roles, including a Provost, Vice-Chancellor of Research, Chief Finance Officer, Chief of Staff, and several Deans. Chancellor Cook acknowledged the success of the Earth Science and Engineering Doctoral Program and Restoration Ecology Master's program.

Chancellor Cook described several campus space and master projects which included renovations to the Auditorium and Dining Hall. A nursing simulation program is being built and scheduled to open in October. Montana Tech had about forty individuals collaborate to write a new strategic plan, summarized by 'deliberately distinctive.' He discussed the new mission and vision statements. The three goals outlined were student success, programs of distinction, and a healthy and vibrant campus ecosystem.

Chancellor Cook introduced the Clark Fork Watershed Education Program (CFWEP) by playing a video discussing Butte mines where Jane Pauley introduced Rayelynn Brandl. Ms. Brandl is the director of CFWEP, which teaches children about the environment and conservation. CFWEP is one of Montana Tech's Programs of Distinction. CFWEP has partnered with several higher education institutions in Montana to achieve its mission. Director Brandl discussed what CFWEP does, such as the watershed stewardship program, teacher professional development, summer pipeline programs, annual fly fishing and conservation camp, and community outreach. She also discussed the program's effectiveness by examining the statistics of students served, teachers trained, and more, plus showing communities served. She completed her presentation with a student and teacher testimonial video.

#### Approval of Minutes

- July 15, 2021 Meeting Minutes
- August 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes

A motion for approval of July 15, 2021 and August 16, 2021 Board meeting minutes was made by Regent Sexton; motion passed (7-0).

#### Commissioner's and System Report

- Commissioner's Update

Commissioner Christian extended appreciation to Chancellor Cook and Montana Tech for hosting the meeting. He also extended condolences to Margie Thompson and her family. He expressed gratitude to all the MUS students for their commitment to their higher education goals and thanked the faculty and staff for their efforts and service in return to campus this fall. He noted with the excitement of the fall return, remaining vigilant with efforts to provide a safe and healthy environment for everyone. He encouraged everyone to follow campus COVID-19 protocols. He stated the health and safety of the MUS is his top priority.

Commissioner Christian spoke to the extraordinary \$101 million gift to MSU College of Nursing. He expressed gratitude to Mark and Robyn Jones. Their gift is an investment in health care across Montana and will help the substantial needs for quality health care in our state's most rural areas. This funding will provide new infrastructure in five different communities across the state. This gift of \$101 million is the largest gift to a



college of nursing program in the United States. He congratulated President Cruzado and everyone in the MSU College of Nursing.

Commissioner Christian announced that OCHE staff recently attended the Education Interim Committee meeting at the Capital. Ms. Helen Thigpen, Executive Director of Government Relations & Public Affairs, provided an update on the return to campus. Jacque Treater, Director of Dual Enrollment, gave an overview of CTE pathways and Perkins Grant. In addition, Deputy Commissioner Trevor and Executive Director Thigpen attended the Education Interim Budget Committee earlier that day. During the last session, these committees were established to monitor agency expenditures, review the implantation of programs, and forward recommendations for proposed legislation to the entire legislative finance committee.

Commissioner Christian thanked the Governor and Lieutenant Governor for appointing him to the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE), where he serves on the Executive Committee. Congress established WICHE in 1953. Each year, the WICHE program serves over 50,000 students and saves them and their families over \$460 million through exchange programs. WICHE is a very active program in Montana and an important project to our system.

Regent Sexton thanked Commissioner Christian and the MUS Healthy Task Force for all their hard work and support. She further expressed the importance of the in-person experience and encouraged all students to get vaccinated.

- MUS Strategic Initiatives (2021-2022)

Deputy Commissioner Tessman announced that more details of specific initiatives would be shared during the remainder of the meeting and in future meetings. The three initiatives emerged from the three long standing goals: of the MUS Strategic Plan: 1) Resident Student Access comes from the goal of Access and Affordability; to connect more students and communities to the promise of public higher education in Montana, 2) Innovation in Workforce Development comes from the goal of Workforce and Economic Development; to reach their academic goals and move toward their professional aspirations, and 3) Healthy MUS comes from the Efficiency & Effectiveness goal; providing these things well, efficiently, high quality and provided safely. These are the three areas of particular focus but not the only ones. The Apply Montana Central Application, Apply Montana Portal, and Montana 10 are examples of initiatives that address the resident student access initiative. The gifts to help address the nursing workforce shortage and the Grow Your Own educator plan are examples of initiatives that fit under the innovation in workforce development initiative. Delivering in-person instruction, expanding mental health and wellness resources, and Quottly, the online course sharing pilot, are examples of work being completed under the healthy MUS initiative. Discussion followed.

- Campus Reports (Linked to agenda)
- Introductions/Acknowledgements

Montana Tech, UM, MSU-Billings, and DCC all made introductions of staff new to MUS.



Remarks by Superintendent Arntzen

Superintendent Arntzen expressed thanks for the remarks/discussion and linkages to K-12 partnerships and STEM. She introduced Dr. Trenin Bayless, who has just joined the OPI team and will be working with dual credit, dual enrollment, and 1, 2, Free. She spoke to the anticipation for a school year that started with open doors and now closing due to the COVID variant outbreak. She expressed the importance of listening to families and parents affected by this virus across both urban and rural communities. She spoke to the recent drop in enrollment from K-12 and stressed the importance of personalized learning.

Superintendent Arntzen discussed four initiatives (MT Hope, MT Teach, MT Learn, MT Ready) and provided updates on each. Regarding MT Hope which is directed towards students, she stressed the importance of emotional and mental health as well as the nutritional efforts and delivery programs underway in Montana. MT Teach, which focuses on teachers, described a new licensing program currently being worked on, making it easier for out-of-state teachers to become licensed in Montana. She also mentioned hoping to form a partnership that could aid in moving medicine forward. MT Learn, focused on what students are learning, had five new standards that went live July 1 for a total of eleven. Math and STEM are the focus moving forward. Finally, Montana Ready is partnerships with the Governor, Higher Education, Perkins, and OPI. There is an additional focus on veterans and a new initiative called the Purple Star Initiative, which she hopes to bring to Montana. This initiative awards military-friendly campuses with a purple star, and she would like to have all campuses in Montana earn that name.

In November, OPI will host the Montana School Law Conference for current legal issues facing education. She expressed her thanks and appreciation for the continued close partnership between OCHE and OPI. She expressed her thanks and appreciation for the continued partnership between OCHE and OPI.

Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee

**ACTION**

- a. Honorary Doctorate, MSU ITEM 196-2008-1291 | Attachment #1

President Cruzado presented the request, in recognition of many career achievements and the distinction brought to the Montana University System as an alumnus, that the Board of Regents grants the authority to confer an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters to Taylor Brown.

- b. Honorary Doctorate, UM ITEM 196-1015-1291 | Attachment #1

President Bodnar presented the request, in recognition of many career achievements and the distinction brought to the Montana University System as an alumnus, that the



Board of Regents grants the authority to confer an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters to Brigadier General Colleen McGuire.

c. Request to Plan Proposals *Executive Summary and OCHE Analysis | Supporting Documentation | New Program Tracking*

Deputy Commissioner Brock Tessman presented the format for the request to plan proposals up for consideration. Each of the Chief Academic Officers gave a brief presentation of their items.

Provost Eskandari presented the requests to plan proposal for the proposed Center for Teaching and Learning and the Certificate of Applied Science in Industrial Maintenance.

Provost Mokwa presented the request to plan proposal for the midwifery option in the Doctor of Nursing Practice program.

Dr. Joy Honi spoke about the plans for student engagement and representation at the center.

Dr. Erdmann presented the request to plan proposal for the Associate of Arts emphasis in substance abuse and addiction.

Provost Humphrey presented the request to plan proposals for a B.S. in Environmental Earth Sciences, a Bachelor of Fine Arts and a Bachelor of Music in Sound Design and Technology, the elimination of the Geography Department, a minor in Environmental Humanities, an Environmental Philosophy option in the Philosophy B.A., a Philosophy and Law option in the Philosophy B.A., an Environmental Public Health Journalism option in the Environmental Science and Natural Resource Journalism M.A., a Pre-Dance Therapy option in the Dance B.A., and a Transitional Doctor of Occupational Therapy program.

Dean Baumann presented the request to plan proposals for an Associate of Applied Science in Cosmetology, and a Certificate of Applied Science in Avionics.

## INFORMATION

### Strategic Priority Items

a. Montana 10 Update

Director Crystine Miller, Student Affairs and Student Engagement, began her presentation by acknowledging the various campus team members working on this pilot. Montana 10 is a student success pilot program designed to increase retention and completion for low-income students. There are ten core supports within three main categories: financial support, academic momentum, and purpose and belonging. The supports are evidence-based and integrated within each other. Early success is critical, and textbook stipends, full-time schedules, and tutoring are highlights of support Montana 10 students receive. Director Miller reported on two benchmarks for the first



year of the pilot, retention and credit accumulation. In both areas, the students are doing better than the other freshman group. Projected graduation rates are 15 percent higher. Discussion followed.

b. Access Initiatives Update *Montana ETS Summary | GEAR UP Summary*

Director Angela McLean, American Indian/Minority Achievement and K-12 Partnerships, described the combined efforts between her role and METS and GEAR UP in leading the MUS college access team. Work is currently underway to better understand the MUS role in helping students and campuses address student childcare needs. Another effort is a collaboration of college application week, FAFSA completion events, and decision day efforts.

Director Travis Anderson, GEAR UP, launched the first-year service program in fiscal year 2021 in partnership with Montana State University, University of Montana, Montana State University Billings, Flathead Valley Community College, and Salish Kootenai College. This year Gallatin College, Missoula College, and City College have all joined. Services provided to first-year GEAR UP students include orientation services to support class registration, major advising, and tutoring. Other services include connecting students with the appropriate campus services to answer various questions, such as uncertainties around meal plans, housing, and student health. Statewide Services GEAR UP offers include 1,2, Free, ACT, and preACT. GEAR UP West will be hosted by Montana GEAR UP October 17 through 19.

Director Jeannie Origbo, Montana Educational Talent Search, announced that they had received continued grant funding for the next five years. Career exploration is a priority. She encouraged everyone to watch the videos linked in the materials. METS will support return-to-learn efforts such as returning to post-secondary education. She highlighted that this is the first time OCHE has hosted an EOC grant to support adult learners. Discussion followed.

### Policy Items

- a. Proposed Revisions to Board Admissions Policies 301 & 301.1
  - Attachment #1: Draft revisions to BOR policy 301 - Admission Requirements
  - Attachment #2: Draft revisions to BOR policy 301.1 - Admission Requirements for Undergraduates into Four-Year University Programs
  - Attachment #3: Clean copy of BOR policy 301 as revised
- b. Proposed Revisions to Board Transfer Policies 301.5, 301.5.1, & 320
  - Attachment #1: Draft revisions to BOR policy 301.5 – Transfer of Credits: MUS and Community Colleges
  - Attachment #2: Draft revisions to BOR policy 301.5.1 – System of Controls
  - Attachment #3: Draft revisions to BOR policy 320.3 – Recognition: Canadian public Institutions

Deputy Commissioner Tessman discussed the policies that will be presented for approval in November. Policy item b. has the references to regional creditors removed



in response to a Department of Education ruling which removed the regional designation.

Director Scott Lemmon, Admissions and Enrollment Strategy, discussed policy cleanup necessary for admission policies. Policy item a. includes merging 301.5 and 301.5.1, cleaning up some language, clarification regarding dual enrollment and minor updates. Discussion followed.

### Strategic Priority Items

#### c. eLearning Update *Annual eLearning Report | Principles of Quality for eLearning*

Deputy Commissioner Tessman highlighted the growth in eLearning over the last several years, the sharp uptick in FY2020, and the accomplishment of providing such a large quantity of online learning so quickly. He expects the trend will continue to climb in the future and that most students will do a blend of in-person and online. Campuses with large service areas have more students who need online and are more prone to increased online attendance. He stated students want online options available for transitory populations, hybrid for place-bound, and unique programs for a larger audience. He described that online options facilitate efficient and sustainable program delivery. Collaboration and cross-registration could add substantial value in providing full classrooms, more course options, and offer more programs. Discussion followed.

#### d. Research Update

Deputy Commissioner Tessman introduced the topic of research growth and the trends for Montana and noted the current funding is at \$300 million and growing.

Dr. Scott Whittenburg, Vice President of Research and Creative Scholarship, UM, liked the research with direct application to Montana, such as the soil moisture monitoring for the five-state region. He explained that the Accelerate Montana group is another highlight as it provides business support from startup through building to successful completion.

Mr. Jason Carter, Vice President of Research and Economic Development, MSU, emphasized the importance of integrating research with the primary educational mission. He explained the award volumes were up to twenty to thirty percent across both campuses, an important benchmark. The research realm has also increased the number of highly paid positions which helps remain competitive and retain employees. Discussion followed.

### Academic Review Items

#### a. Academic Priorities and Planning *OCHE Executive Summary | Campus Priorities and Planning Statements | Forthcoming Academic Proposal Report*

#### b. Academic Approval Memo



c. Accreditation Report

Deputy Commissioner Tessman summarized all three academic review items. Item c. represents a map of how the different campuses stack up on the accreditation report. Item b. a notice of items that have been delegated either to individual institutions or to OCHE for approval. Item a. a new report designed to serve as a roadmap of the plan for coming months for the various campuses which should help to understand how everything fits together for future requests and updates.

Budget, Administration and Audit Committee

**CONSENT**

**Staff Items:**

- a. Staff Item, Helena College ITEM 196-1900-R021
- b. Staff Item, MSU Bozeman ITEM 196-2000-R0921
- c. Request for Approval of University System/Employee Intellectual Property Joint Participation under MUSP 407-Wittie and Millman; MSU Bozeman ITEM 196-2007-R0921 | Attachment #1
- d. Request for Approval of University System/Employee Intellectual Property Joint Participation under MUSP 407-LaMeres; MSU Bozeman ITEM 196-2005-R0921 | Attachment #1
- e. Request for Approval of University System/Employee Intellectual Property Joint Participation under MUSP 407-Seifert; MSU Bozeman ITEM 196-2006-R0921 | Attachment #1
- f. Labor Agreement; OCHE/MUS ITEM 196-100-R0921 | Attachment #1

**Emeriti Faculty:**

- g. Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor of Classics and Art History and Dean Emeritus of the Davidson Honors College on Dr. John Madden; UM Missoula ITEM 196-1012-R0921
- h. Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Geosciences on James Sears; UM Missoula ITEM 196-1013-R0921
- i. Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of the Sociology Department on Dr. Teresa Sobieszczyk; UM Missoula ITEM 196-1014-R0921
- j. Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emerita of Adult and Higher Education upon Dr. Marilyn Lockhart; MSU Bozeman ITEM 196-





2001-R0921

- k. Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Mathematics upon Dr. John Lund; MSU Bozeman ITEM 196-2002-R0921
- l. Request for Authorization to confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Counseling upon Dr. Mark Nelson; MSU Bozeman ITEM 196-2003-R0921
- m. Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Ecology upon Dr. David W. Roberts; MSU Bozeman ITEM 196-2004-R0921

**Facility Items:**

- n. Request for Authorization to Repair and Upgrade the Steam Distribution System using LRBP Major Repair Funds \$2.48M and Capital Development Funds \$3.52; Montana Tech ITEM 196-1501-R0921 | Attachment #1
- o. Request for Authorization to Upgrade Haynes Hall Ventilation using LRBP Major Maintenance Funds; MSU Bozeman ITEM 196-2024-R0921 | Attachment #1
- p. Request for Authorization to Replace Lewis Hall Roof using LRBP Major Maintenance Funds; MSU Bozeman ITEM 196-2026-R0921 | Attachment #1
- q. Request for Authorization to Upgrade Montana Hall Fire System using LRBP Major Maintenance Funds; MSU Bozeman ITEM 196-2027-R0921 | Attachment #1
- r. Request for Authorization to Install and Upgrade Reid Hall Fire System using LRBP Major Maintenance Funds; MSU Bozeman ITEM 196-2028-R0921 | Attachment #1
- s. Request for Authorization to Renovate the Brick Breeden Fieldhouse Locker Rooms; MSU Bozeman ITEM 196-2020-R0921 | Attachment #1
- t. Request for Authorization to Perform Energy Planning; MSU Bozeman ITEM 196-2021-R0921
- u. Request for Authorization to Upgrade Instructional Spaces (General Classroom and Instructional Laboratories); MSU Bozeman ITEM 196-2025-R0921 | Attachment #1
- v. Request for Authorization to Improve Energy Efficiencies at the Steam Plant and Plew Building; MSU Bozeman ITEM 196-2029-R0921 | Attachment #1



**ACTION**

- a. Request for Approval of Montana University System Operating Budgets – FY 2022; OCHE/MUS ITEM 196-101-R0921 | Attachment #1

Deputy Commissioner Tyler Trevor presented this request for approval of an all funds operating budget for the institutions and agencies of the Montana University System for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2021, as submitted by each of the units, recommended by the Commissioner of Higher Education, and summarized in the system and campus budget schedules. He noted that approval of these operating budget is required by §17-7-138(2), MCA, which states: "The expenditure of money appropriated in the general appropriations act to the Board of Regents, on behalf of the university system units, as defined in §17-7-102, MCA, is contingent upon approval of a comprehensive operating budget by October 1 of each fiscal year." The approving authority for the university system is defined by §17-7-102(3)(f), MCA, to be the Board of Regents of Higher Education or its designated representative. Specific items he mentioned include 1) additional pay plan appropriation used for longevity allowances, 2) retirement appropriation, 3) campus long-term deferred maintenance plans, and 4) COVID relief funding.

His focus was on the upper-level budget summary for the campuses which included items such as plant funds, community colleges, tribal college assistance, loans and endowments, and OCHE. The overall budget of \$1.7 billion resulted in a ten percent increase over last year.

Ms. Shauna Lyons, MUS Director of Accounting and Budget, discussed high-level analysis with measurements consisting of revenue, expenditures, staffing, waivers, and enrollment. She listed major budget drivers such as enrollment, resident student tuition freeze, graduate and non-resident student tuition increases, state appropriations with the insurance holiday, and COVID-19. Director Lyons also pointed out common themes in the budget such as projected enrollment increase, state appropriations decrease, tuition revenue increase, insurance holiday savings, and a slight increase in expenditures. Discussion followed.

- b. Request for Authorization to Plan, Program and Design up to 5 New Nursing Education Facilities; MSU Bozeman ITEM 196-2009-R0921

Deputy Commissioner Trevor introduced the request for authorization to plan five new nursing education facilities.

President Cruzado explained the need for this approval. The \$101 million gift received from Mark and Robin Jones would be better used by working in partnership with other



campuses rather than only at MSU. The request to receive approval at this time will clear obstacles when it is time to take the request to the legislature. Discussion followed.

- c. Request for Authorization to Plan and Design the Relocation of the Facilities Maintenance Yard and Ancillary Facilities; MSU Bozeman ITEM 196-2022-R0921 | Attachment #1

Deputy Commissioner Trevor discussed the request for this item and gave some background. The 2019 legislature gave spending authority; this request is for the planning and design in modernizing the facility.

### INFORMATION

- a. Budget, Administration, & Audit Committee Workplan and Calendar

Deputy Commissioner Trevor presented the Budget, Administration, & Audit Committee workplan. Priority areas identified for FY22 include policy review, fees, enterprise risk management, COVID-19 relief funding, and MUS strategic initiatives.

- b. BOR Policy Revisions – 900 Series (Financial Affairs)
  - 940.12.1 – Tuition & Fee Approval
  - 940.13 – Tuition Waivers and Discounts
  - 940.9.1 – Use of Plant Funds for Projects Under \$75,000
  - 940.9.2 – Use of Plant Funds for Projects Over \$75,000
  - 901.4 – Rental and Royalties
  - 901.12 – Use of Timber Sales
  - 950.2 – Montana Family Education Saving Program
- c. BOR Policy Revisions – 1000 Series (Physical Plant)
  - 1002.2 – Vehicle Policy & Procedures
  - 1004.1 – Naming of Buildings
  - 1003.7 – Authorization for Building Projects
  - 1003.6 – Transfer of Interest in Real Property

Deputy Commissioner Trevor touched on each of the 900 and 1000 series policy draft revisions introduced to be submitted for approval in November. He, Shauna Lyons, and Ron Muffick, with the help of other staff and campus input, worked on these revisions. Some were driven by the legislature, and some were necessary updates. Discussion followed.

#### Public Comment\*

Mr. Noah Durnell, Associated Students of UM President, provided his written statement and a copy of a resolution. He then spoke in support of COVID-19 mitigation and vaccination measures.



Dr. Joy Honea, MSU Billings Faculty Association President, and member of MUS Faculty Association Representatives, read the statement MUSFAR submitted and added some comments in support of further COVID-19 mitigation measures in the form of vaccine and mask requirements.

Mr. Kenyon Lock, ASUM Vice President, spoke in support for a requirement for vaccination against COVID-19.

Ms. Emma Kiefer, UM graduate student, spoke in support of COVID-19 mandates for vaccines and masks.

Ms. Cassie Williams, ASUM senator, spoke about contact tracing failures and in support of COVID-19 mitigation measures.

Mr. Tor Gudmundsson, ASUM senator, spoke in support of COVID-19 mitigation measures.

Ms. Laura O'Neill, UM law student, MSU alumni, spoke in support of Regent authority to impose COVID-19 vaccine and mask requirements.

Mr. Mark Grime, UM Faculty member, spoke in support of a vaccine mandate and testing for unvaccinated.

Ms. Elizabeth Bowles, ASUM senator, spoke in support of mandated vaccines.

The Board convened an executive session. Chair Lozar determined the matters of the discussion relate to matters of individual privacy and the demands of the individual privacy outweigh the merits of public disclosure.

Executive Session | *Pintler Room*

- Presidential Reviews

Meeting Recessed at 5:40 PM

### **Thursday, September 16**

The Board reconvened for an additional executive session. Chair Lozar determined the matters of the discussion relate to matters of individual privacy and the demands of the individual privacy outweigh the merits of public disclosure.

Executive Session | *Pintler Room*

- Litigation Update

Board of Education



Meeting Reconvened at 10:33 AM

Federal Update

Ms. Helen Thigpen, Executive Director of Government Relations and Public Affairs, provided a Federal update to the Board regarding key legislation and updating the May information provided. There are higher education opportunities in the infrastructure bill as it is written which is being watched and discussed by the campuses. The budget reconciliation bill includes several items of interest to higher education. Details of the House Education Committee portion of that bill contains 1) funding to cover two years of community college tuition, 2) support for minority-serving institutions, 3) increase in Pell grants amounts, and 4) college retention and completion grants. The United States Innovation and Competition Act which increases federal investment in post-secondary research was also discussed. Discussion followed.

Two-Year and Community College Committee

**INFORMATION**

a. Geer Grants and Developing Academic Collaborations

Ms. Jacque Treaster, Director of Dual Enrollment and Career & Technical Education, discussed the process behind the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) grants, the results and statistics, and the incredible work she felt was done within the projects. Dr. David Krueger, Dean of the College of Technical Sciences at MSU Northern, and Dr. Thomas Gallagher, Dean of Missoula College, presented the two projects chosen as highlights for the Regents. The MSU Northern grant was for a pilot project that improved completion for electrical and plumbing apprentices and developed hybrid models of instruction. The result was a 96 percent completion rate. The Missoula College highlighted IT program initiatives including IT Workforce Remote Education Initiative, upskilling instructors, course development for remote delivery, course sharing between campuses, cyber range, and the cyber hub. Director Treaster finished by discussing the next steps of continuing cross-campus collaboration, encouraging industry engagement, and focusing on access and flexible delivery models. Discussion followed.

b. Two-Year Committee 2021-2022 Workplan

Deputy Commissioner Brock Tessman went over a few highlights of the plan, an ongoing discussion item. The four strategic areas of focus will be 1) Board Education: Two Year and Community College Mission & Contest, 2) Emphasizing Workforce and Economic Development, 3) Enhancing Statewide Partnerships, and 5) Innovative Delivery & Credentialing. Discussion followed.

Public Comment\*

Bradford Watson, MSU Faculty Senate Chair, read an unanimously passed resolution requesting continuing COVID-19 mitigation efforts, specifically vaccine and mask mandates.



Committee Reports & Action

- Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee

**ACTION**

- a. Honorary Doctorate, MSU ITEM 196-2008-1291 | Attachment #1

A motion for approval of action item a., item 196-208-1291, was made by Regent Buchanan; motion passed (7-0).

- b. Honorary Doctorate, UM ITEM 196-1015-1291 | Attachment #1

A motion for approval of action item b., item 196-1015-1291, was made by Regent Nystuen; motion passed (7-0).

- c. Request to Plan Proposals *Executive Summary and OCHE Analysis* | *Supporting Documentation* | *New Program Tracking*

Chair Lozar noted that the Bachelor of Music in Sound Design and Technology from UM would be removed. Any motion made is done so noting this change. A motion for approval of action item c. Request to Plan Proposals was made by Regent Dombrowski; motion passed (7-0).

- Budget, Administration and Audit Committee

**CONSENT**

**Staff Items:**

- a. Staff Item, Helena College ITEM 196-1900-R021
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- l. Request for Authorization to confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Counseling upon Dr. Mark Nelson; MSU Bozeman ITEM 196-2003-R0921
- m. Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Ecology upon Dr. David W. Roberts; MSU Bozeman ITEM 196-2004-R0921

**Facility Items:**

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A motion for approval of consent items a.-v. was made by Regent Sexton; motion passed (7-0).

### **ACTION**

- a. Request for Approval of Montana University System Operating Budgets – FY 2022; OCHE/MUS ITEM 196-101-R0921 | Attachment #1

A motion for approval of action item a. item 196-101-R0921 was made by Regent Dombrowski; motion passed (7-0).

- b. Request for Authorization to Plan, Program and Design up to 5 New Nursing Education Facilities; MSU Bozeman ITEM 196-2009-R0921

A motion for approval of action item b. item 196-2009-R021, was made by Regent Sexton. Regent Dombrowski and Regent Rogers will be abstaining from this vote. Motion passed (5-0).

- c. Request for Authorization to Plan and Design the Relocation of the Facilities Maintenance Yard and Ancillary Facilities; MSU Bozeman ITEM 196-2022-R0921 | Attachment #1

A motion for approval of action item c., item 196-2022-R0921, was made by Regent Rogers; motion passed (7-0).

- None.
- Two-Year and Community College Committee
  - Student Appeal

Chair Lozar explained the process related to the appeal. The request to hear the appeal is denied and the Commissioner's decision is upheld.





MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

---

Meeting Adjourned at 11:56am

Approved by the Board of Regents on

11/18/2021

Date

Handwritten signature of Clayton T. Christian in blue ink.

Clayton T. Christian  
Commissioner of Higher Education  
and Secretary to the Board of Regents

11/18/2021

Date

Handwritten signature of Casey Lozar in blue ink.

Casey Lozar  
Chair, Board of Regents

# APPENDIX A

montana state university **BILLINGS**

2022



**Be U**  
— @ —  
**MSUB**

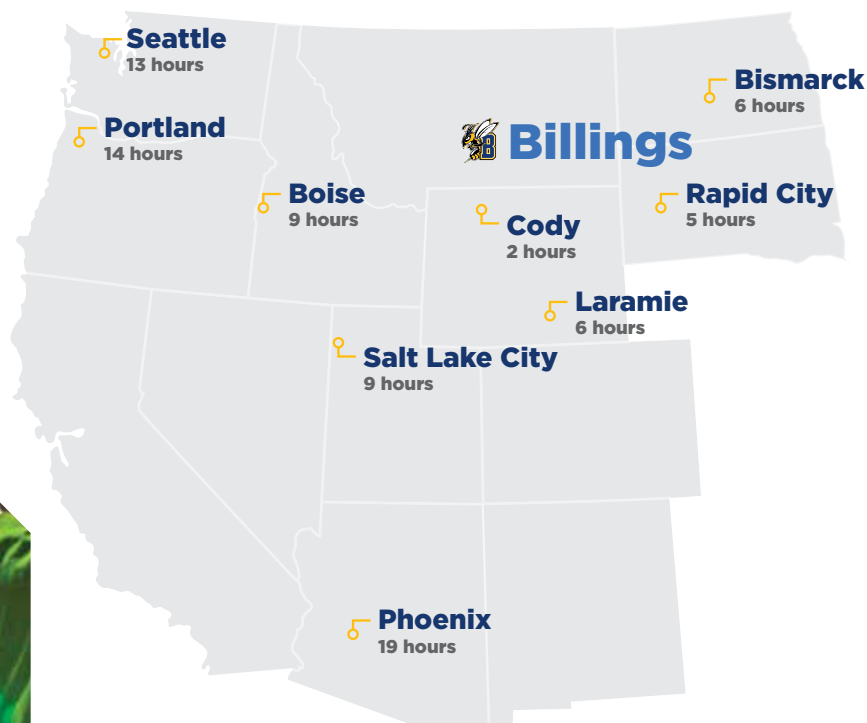
# Belong in Billings



## Billings, MT

We're closer than you think

Estimated drive times to select cities



## About Billings

- Largest city in Montana, population approx. 110,000
- Strong local economy with boutiques, live music venues, art galleries, museums, farm-to-table restaurants, and locally owned coffee shops
- Large economic district with international, national, regional, state, and local businesses
- Two largest hospitals in the state, and regional health care corridor
- Over 70 miles of hiking and biking trails
- Approx. 45 minutes from Red Lodge ski resort



Check out  
our virtual  
campus tour!

[msubillings.edu/future/  
campustour.htm](https://msubillings.edu/future/campustour.htm)

# Become...

## University

Applied Science <i>Online Option</i> .....	<b>B</b>
Art .....	<b>B - M</b>
Art - Fine Arts .....	<b>B</b>
Art (K-12) .....	<b>B</b>
Biology - BA, BS .....	<b>B</b>
• Biology Medical Laboratory Science .....	<b>BO</b>
Broadfield Science .....	<b>B</b>
Broadfield Science Education .....	<b>B</b>
Business Administration .....	<b>B - M</b>
• Accounting <i>Online Option</i> .....	<b>BO - M</b>
• Finance .....	<b>BO - M</b>
• General Business <i>Online Option</i> .....	<b>BO</b>
• Management <i>Online Option</i> .....	<b>BO</b>
• Marketing <i>Online Option</i> .....	<b>BO - M</b>
Chemistry .....	<b>B - M</b>
Coaching .....	<b>M</b>
Communication Arts ( <i>major in one of these options</i> ) .....	<b>B</b>
• Media Studies <i>Online Option</i> .....	<b>BO - M</b>
• Organizational Communication <i>Online Option</i> .....	<b>BO</b>
Criminal Justice .....	<b>B - M</b>
Early Childhood Studies .....	<b>TM</b>
Elementary Education (Broadfield) .....	<b>B</b>
English .....	<b>B - M</b>
English Education .....	<b>B</b>
Environmental Studies .....	<b>B</b>
General Studies <i>Online Option</i> .....	<b>A</b>
Health Administration <i>Online Only</i> .....	<b>B</b>
Health & Human Performance .....	<b>B</b>
• Health & Wellness .....	<b>BO</b>
• Human Performance .....	<b>BO</b>
• Pre-Physical Therapy .....	<b>BO</b>
• 3+2 BS Health & Human Performance/ MS Athletic Training .....	<b>B</b>
Health and Physical Education (K-12) .....	<b>B</b>
History .....	<b>B - M</b>
History Education .....	<b>B - TM</b>
Human Services .....	<b>B</b>
Information Systems .....	<b>M</b>
Interdisciplinary Studies .....	<b>M</b>
Liberal Studies <i>Online Option</i> .....	<b>B</b>
Math Education .....	<b>B - TM</b>
Music ( <i>major in one of these options</i> ) .....	<b>B</b>
• Commercial Music .....	<b>BO</b>
• Music (K-12) .....	<b>BO</b>
• Performance .....	<b>BO</b>

Native American Studies .....	<b>M</b>
Outdoor Adventure Leadership .....	<b>B</b>
Political Science .....	<b>B - M</b>
Political Science Education .....	<b>TM</b>
Pre-Nursing ( <i>preparation for transfer</i> ) .....	
Psychiatric Rehabilitation .....	<b>B</b>
Psychology - BA, BS .....	<b>B - M</b>
Public Relations <i>Online Option</i> .....	<b>B</b>
Reading (K-12) Minor .....	<b>M</b>
RN to BSN Completion <i>Online Only</i> .....	<b>B</b>
Sociology .....	<b>B - M</b>
Spanish Minor .....	<b>M</b>
Special Education ( <i>Double Major Only</i> ) .....	<b>B</b>
Women's Studies .....	<b>M</b>

## City College

Accounting Technology <i>Online Option</i> .....	<b>A</b>
Automobile Collision Repair Technology .....	<b>C</b>
Automobile Refinishing Technology .....	<b>C</b>
Automobile Collision Repair and Refinishing Tech. ....	<b>A</b>
Automotive Technology .....	<b>A - C</b>
Business Administration <i>Online Option</i> .....	<b>A</b>
Computer Programming & Application Development ..	<b>A</b>
Computer Systems Technology .....	<b>A</b>
Construction Management .....	<b>A</b>
Construction Technology .....	<b>C</b>
Criminal Justice .....	<b>A</b>
Cybersecurity/Network Support .....	<b>A</b>
Cybersecurity/Network Technology .....	<b>A</b>
Diesel Technology .....	<b>A - C</b>
Fire Science .....	<b>A</b>
General Applied Business <i>Online Option</i> .....	<b>A</b>
General Studies <i>Online Option</i> .....	<b>A</b>
Human Resources <i>Online Option</i> .....	<b>A - C</b>
Instrument and Electrical Technician .....	<b>A</b>
Medical Coding and Insurance Billing <i>Online Option</i> .....	<b>C</b>
Paramedic .....	<b>A</b>
Practical Nursing <i>Online Option</i> .....	<b>C</b>
Pre-Dental Hygiene ( <i>preparation for transfer</i> ) .....	<b>A</b>
Process Plant Technology .....	<b>A</b>
Radiologic Technology .....	<b>A</b>
Registered Nurse .....	<b>A</b>
Respiratory Therapy ( <i>partnership with MSU Great Falls</i> ) .....	<b>A</b>
Surgical Technology ( <i>partnership with MSU Great Falls</i> ) .....	<b>A</b>
Ultrasound Technology <i>Online Option</i> .....	<b>C</b>
Welding/Metal Fabrication Technology .....	<b>A - C</b>

<b>B</b> .....	<b>Bachelor's Degree Major</b>
<b>BO</b> .....	<b>Bachelor's Degree Option</b>
<b>TM</b> .....	<b>Teaching Minor</b>
<b>A</b> .....	<b>Associate Degree</b>
<b>M</b> .....	<b>Minor</b>
<b>C</b> .....	<b>Certificate</b>



**Learn more  
about our  
degrees!**

[msubillings.edu/future/  
degrees.htm](https://msubillings.edu/future/degrees.htm)

# Go *Beyond* the classroom

## Research Facts:

- Undergraduate Research Fellowships
- Medical Laboratory Sciences Fellowships
- 75% of seniors and 62% of first-year students participate in service-learning projects
- Over 100 students from all disciplines present research annually at local, state, and national conferences



**14:1** student to faculty ratio

**89%** of seniors are engaged in internships, research, service learning, study abroad

**62%** of first-year students participate in service-learning projects

One of the **most affordable universities** in Montana

Professors will know you **by name**



**86%**



of professors hold the highest degree in their field



Credits transfer seamlessly between all public Montana institutions

# Be Bold



## You'll have opportunities to:

- Intern at local Fortune 500 companies
- Student teach in the largest school district in Montana
- Conduct real-world, award-winning marketing research
- Intern at the Yellowstone Art Museum
- Complete clinicals in Billings' extensive health care network
- Get real-world experience at local brokerage firms
- Study music alongside renowned musicians
- Study around the world
- Showcase your art in MSUB's two art galleries
- Be part of cutting-edge research



When I was looking at colleges, I wanted to apply to smaller ones where I could get to know my professors and not feel overwhelmed. Once I started at MSUB, I knew it was the right place for me. The students and staff here are all amazing! I was also awarded a scholarship from MSUB which helped take a lot of weight off my shoulders.

**Alexa Shipp**  
Major: Elementary Education  
Hometown: Glasgow, MT



# Be Connected...



OVER  
**60**  
student  
organizations



Civic and  
Community  
**ENGAGEMENT**



You're not just  
**A NUMBER,**  
you're a  
**YELLOWJACKET**



Close-knit  
**COMMUNITY**



Learn more  
about the Center  
for Engagement!  
[msubillings.edu/engagement](https://msubillings.edu/engagement)



I chose MSU Billings because I loved the overall campus atmosphere. I am excited to be part of a campus with small class sizes, where every professor knows my name. The community here makes it feel like a second home.

Rylee Treu  
Major: English  
Hometown: Miles City, MT







MSU Billings was close to home which helped me transition out of being homeschooled into college. As I enrolled in more classes, built relationships with peers and faculty, and got involved on campus through jobs, clubs, and extracurricular activities, it felt like a place I could call home. I would not be the person I am today if not for my time at MSU Billings.

**Daniel Lurie**  
 Major: Communications  
 Hometown: Talala, OK



# Build...



I'm very excited about the new greenhouse! Having more space and organization will be very beneficial to future botanists and they'll have space to conduct their research.

**Kandiss Dowdell**  
Major: Biology  
Hometown: Roberts, MT



Students will start their career in a state-of-the-art building specifically designed for them.

**Dr. Kurt Toenjes**  
Dean of the  
College of Health  
Professions  
and Science



One of the greatest things about MSUB is the passion of the professors, who work incredibly hard to ensure they're training competent science and health professionals. That's why the new Yellowstone Science & Health building is so important. The professors will have dedicated labs and spaces to take education and research to new heights, while continuing to develop competitive and skilled scientists and health professionals. Additionally, the open labs and classroom concept, combined with the new student study spaces will attract anyone to come and share their love for the health and sciences. This is a game-changer for MSUB and the region.

**Kelton Houston**  
Major: Chemistry & Biology  
Hometown: Billings, MT



# Be a Yellowjacket



MSUB is the only **NCAA Division II school in Montana**

**278**

Student Athletes

- 96** from Montana
- 170** from other states
- 12** international

Cumulative Student-Athlete GPA is

**3.18**

Ranked in the top

**10%**

in Division II schools for community service hours

## Women's Sports

- Basketball
- Cheer/Stunt
- Cross Country
- Golf
- Soccer
- Softball
- Track and Field
- Triathlon
- Volleyball

## Men's Sports

- Basketball
- Baseball
- Cheer/Stunt
- Cross Country
- Golf
- Track and Field
- Soccer



**FREE student admission to all home games!**  
More info at

[msubsports.com](http://msubsports.com)

# Benefit...

Private-college feel at a public-college price

## COST OF ATTENDANCE

### Fall & Spring semester cost for MSU Billings

	Montana Resident	WUE Resident	Non-Resident
Tuition	\$6,220	\$8,670	\$19,950
Books & Supplies	\$1,540	\$1,540	\$1,540
Room & Board	\$7,250	\$7,250	\$7,250
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$15,010</b>	<b>\$17,460</b>	<b>\$28,740</b>

### Fall & Spring semester cost for City College

	Montana Resident	WUE Resident	Non-Resident
Tuition	\$4,070	\$5,480	\$9,260
Books & Supplies	\$1,540	\$1,540	\$1,540
Room & Board	\$7,250	\$7,250	\$7,250
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,860</b>	<b>\$14,270</b>	<b>\$18,050</b>

*The Western Undergraduate Exchange is available to qualifying students from AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, ND, NM, NV, OR, SD, UT, WA, WY, Guam, and Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands. Tuition is subject to change. Additional fees may apply. Estimated annual costs are based on 2021-2022 costs.*



**Estimate  
what your  
cost will  
be at**

[msubillings.edu/  
netprice/sr/](https://msubillings.edu/netprice/sr/)



**The Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) helps save you over \$10K in tuition, room and board over four years compared to other large MT institutions.**

**You automatically qualify for WUE tuition if you live in the following states:**

- Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, Guam and Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands.
- Not a Montana or WUE resident? You can still save over \$19K in out-of-state tuition and room & board over four years by attending MSUB compared to other large Montana public institutions.

MSUB is close enough to home that I can hop on a plane and visit, but far enough away that I am independent. The Western Undergraduate Scholarship gave me the opportunity to study outside of my home state at an affordable cost. I've loved getting to know Montana and the people here.

**Denise Morales-Boyd**  
Major: History  
Hometown: Los Angeles, CA



**Get information on  
tuition, room & board,  
fees, and more at**

[msubillings.edu/finaid/costofattendance.htm](https://msubillings.edu/finaid/costofattendance.htm)

# SCHOLARSHIPS

*One application, limitless scholarships*

**MSU Billings awards over \$1.8 million in scholarships annually.**

**81%** of full-time, first-time freshmen students are awarded some type of financial aid



**Apply for scholarships at**

[msubillings.edu/scholarships](https://msubillings.edu/scholarships)



I chose MSU Billings because coming from a small school, I knew that being part of a community was a big deal for me. I tried out a larger college after high school, but it didn't feel right. Here at MSUB, I have so much more support and I've made countless great relationships. It was one of the best decisions I ever made.

**Bryce Peterson**

*Major: Health and Human Performance  
Hometown: Huntley, MT*



MSUB stood out to me due to its rigorous academics and small class sizes. The cost to attend is comparatively lower than other public Montana institutions and I was also awarded a scholarship which will ease some financial stress and allow me to become the best teacher I can be as I prepare for my career.

**Brenna Beckett**

*Major: Broadfield Science Teaching Option  
Hometown: Broadview, MT*



**Find out more about financial aid!**

[msubillings.edu/finaid](https://msubillings.edu/finaid)



# Admissions Checklist:

## Visit MSUB

Book your visit at [msubillings.edu/future](https://msubillings.edu/future) or check out our virtual campus tours

## Apply for admission

Apply online at [msubillings.edu/future/apply](https://msubillings.edu/future/apply)

## Apply for scholarships

[msubillings.edu/scholarships](https://msubillings.edu/scholarships)

Scholarships awarded on an ongoing basis

Priority deadline is February 1

## Apply for Financial Aid

Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov)

MSUB's FAFSA school code is **002530**

### Still Have Questions?

Contact Us!

Call: 406.657.2888  
Text: 406.412.1324  
[msubillings.edu](https://msubillings.edu)  
[admissions@msubillings.edu](mailto:admissions@msubillings.edu)



Follow Us @msubillings

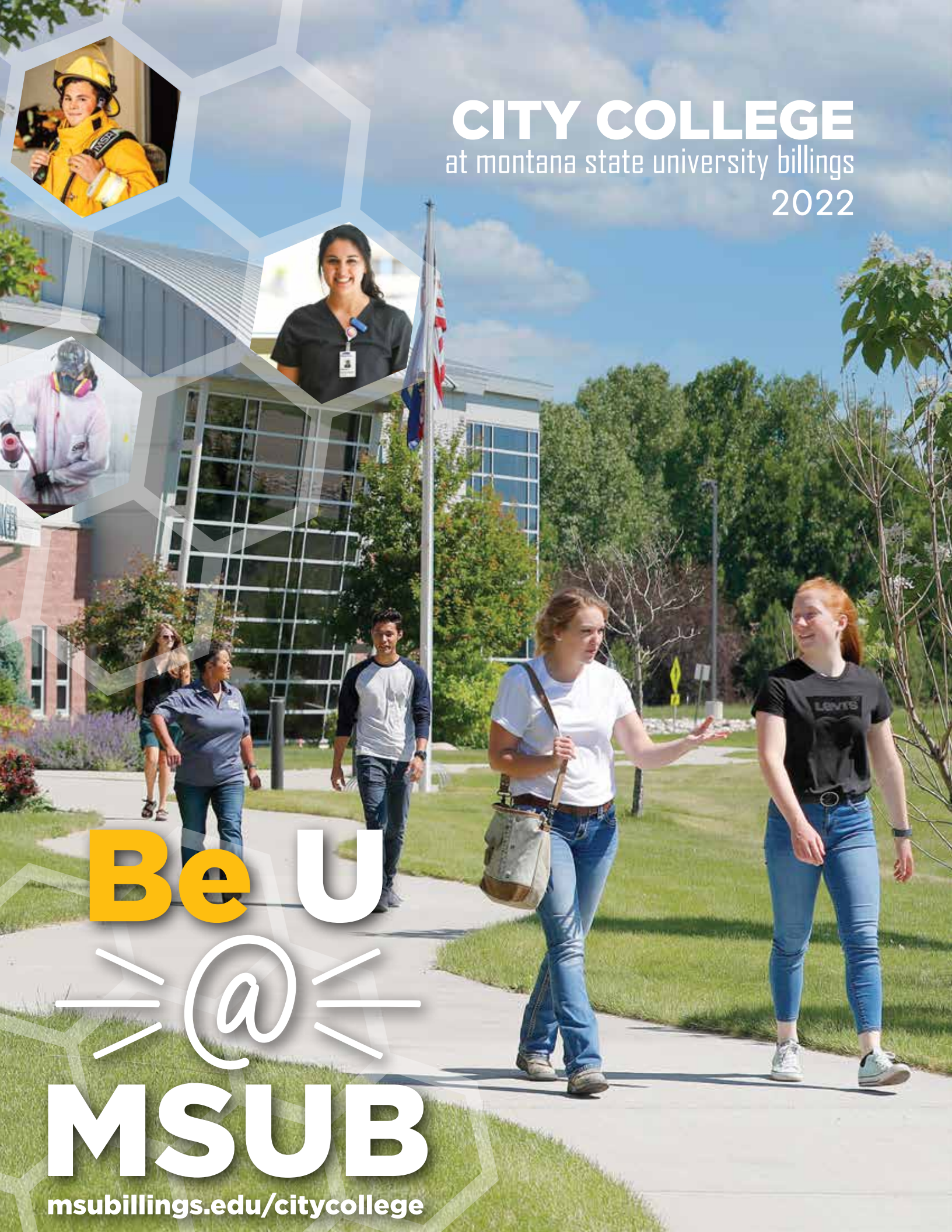


1500 University Drive  
Billings, MT 59101



# CITY COLLEGE

at montana state university billings  
2022



**Be U**

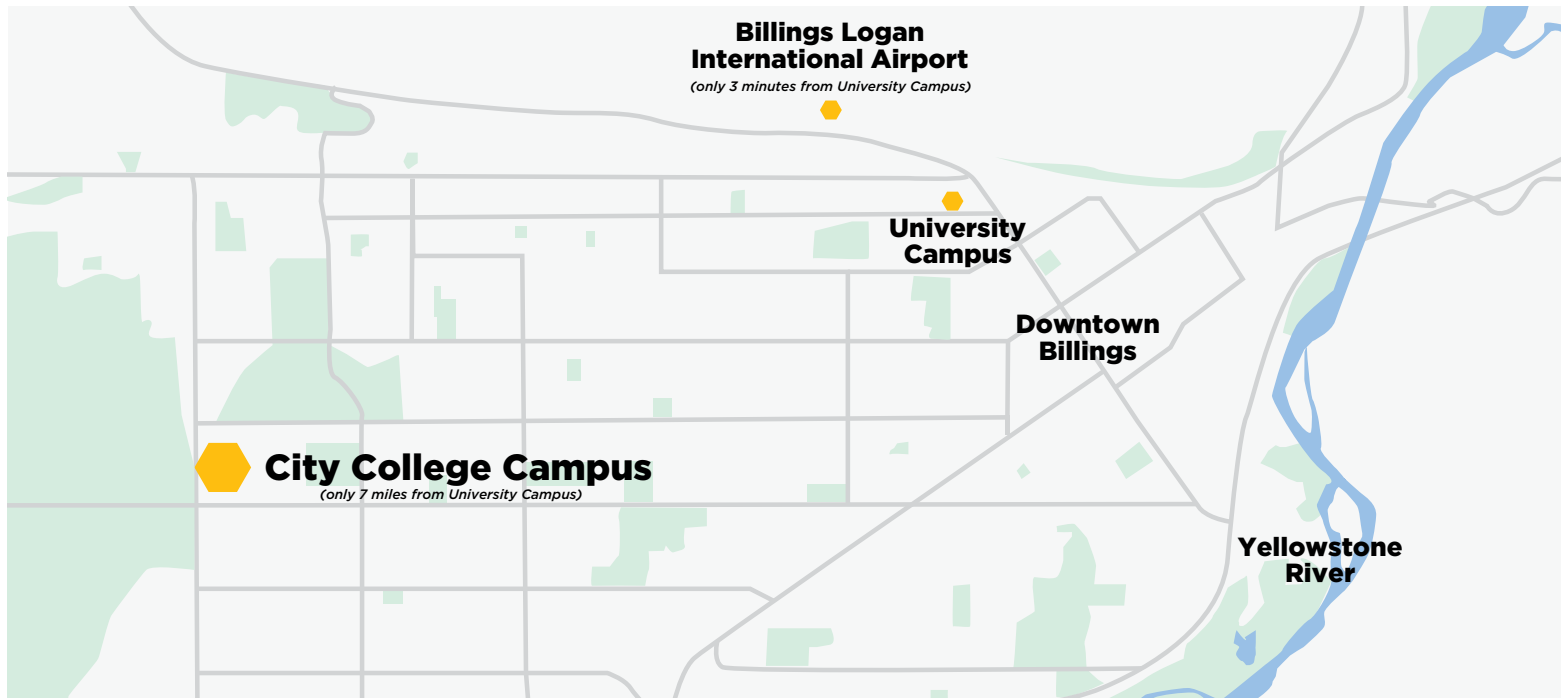


**MSUB**

[msubillings.edu/citycollege](https://msubillings.edu/citycollege)

# Belong in Billings

*Not your average two-year institution*



## About Billings

- Largest city in Montana, population approx. 110,000
- Strong local economy with boutiques, live music venues, art galleries, museums, farm-to-table restaurants, and locally owned coffee shops
- Large economic district with international, national, regional, state, and local businesses
- Two largest hospitals in the state, and regional health care corridor
- Water access for fishing, boating, floating, and waterskiing
- Approx. 45 minutes from Red Lodge ski resort



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campustour.htm](https://msubillings.edu/future/campustour.htm)



# Become...

## City College

Accounting Technology <b>Online Option</b>	A
Automobile Collision Repair Technology	C
Automobile Refinishing Technology	C
Automobile Collision Repair and Refinishing Tech.	A
Automotive Technology	A - C
Business Administration <b>Online Option</b>	A
Computer Programming & Application Development	A
Computer Systems Technology	A
Construction Management	A
Construction Technology	C
Criminal Justice	A
Cybersecurity/Network Support	A
Cybersecurity/Network Technology	A
Diesel Technology	A - C
Fire Science	A
General Applied Business <b>Online Option</b>	A
General Studies <b>Online Option</b>	A
Human Resources <b>Online Option</b>	A - C
Instrument and Electrical Technician	A
Medical Coding and Insurance Billing <b>Online Option</b>	C
Paramedic	A
Practical Nursing <b>Online Option</b>	C
Pre-Dental Hygiene (preparation for transfer)	A
Process Plant Technology	A
Radiologic Technology	A
Registered Nurse	A
Respiratory Therapy (partnership with MSU Great Falls)	A
Surgical Technology (partnership with MSU Great Falls)	A
Ultrasound Technology <b>Online Option</b>	C
Welding/Metal Fabrication Technology	A - C

## University

Applied Science <b>Online Option</b>	B
Art	B - M
Art - Fine Arts	B
Art (K-12)	B
Biology - BA, BS	B
♦ Biology Medical Laboratory Science	BO
Broadfield Science	B
Broadfield Science Education	B
Business Administration	B - M

♦ Accounting <b>Online Option</b>	BO - M
♦ Finance	BO - M
♦ General Business <b>Online Option</b>	BO
♦ Management <b>Online Option</b>	BO
♦ Marketing <b>Online Option</b>	BO - M
Chemistry	B - M
Coaching	M
Communication Arts (major in one of these options)	B
♦ Media Studies <b>Online Option</b>	BO - M
♦ Organizational Communication <b>Online Option</b>	BO
Criminal Justice	B - M
Early Childhood Studies	TM
Elementary Education (Broadfield)	B
English	B - M
English Education	B
Environmental Studies	B
General Studies <b>Online Option</b>	A
Health Administration <b>Online Only</b>	B
Health & Human Performance	B
♦ Health & Wellness	BO
♦ Human Performance	BO
♦ Pre-Physical Therapy	BO
♦ 3+2 BS Health & Human Performance/ MS Athletic Training	B
Health and Physical Education (K-12)	B
History	B - M
History Education	B - TM
Human Services	B
Information Systems	M
Interdisciplinary Studies	M
Liberal Studies <b>Online Option</b>	B
Math Education	B - TM
Music (major in one of these options)	B
♦ Commercial Music	BO
♦ Music (K-12)	BO
♦ Performance	BO
Native American Studies	M
Outdoor Adventure Leadership	B
Political Science	B - M
Political Science Education	TM
Pre-Nursing (preparation for transfer)	
Psychiatric Rehabilitation	B
Psychology - BA, BS	B - M
Public Relations <b>Online Option</b>	B
Reading (K-12) Minor	M
RN to BSN Completion <b>Online Only</b>	B
Sociology	B - M
Spanish Minor	M
Special Education (Double Major Only)	B
Women's Studies	M

B	Bachelor's Degree Major
BO	Bachelor's Degree Option
TM	Teaching Minor
A	Associate Degree
M	Minor
C	Certificate



Learn more  
about our  
degrees!

[msubillings.edu/future/degrees.htm](https://msubillings.edu/future/degrees.htm)

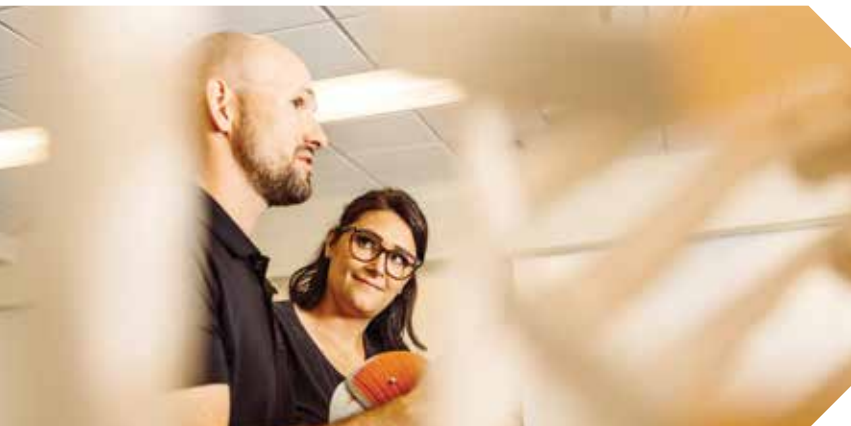
# Go *Beyond* the classroom

## Hands-on learning focused:

- Over 30 industry-recognized programs and certificates in the fields of Health, Business, Computers, Industry, and Automotive.
- Most programs can be completed in 9-24 months.
- The only college in Montana offering Autobody, Instrument & Electrical, Process Plant, and Ultrasound.
- The only Fire Science program in Montana to be accredited by International Fire Service Accreditation Congress.



## Many programs hold industry accreditations:



One of the **most affordable universities** in Montana



**14:1** student to faculty ratio



Professors will know you by name



**97%**  job placement rate



**\$\$\$**

Average starting salary of

**\$55,193**



Credits transfer seamlessly between all public Montana institutions



City College has a highly respected radiologic technology program and I want to learn from the best. I also received a scholarship from City College which will help me afford the necessities for school and provide more for my little family, as I am a single mother and am working hard to provide a promising and secure future for my daughter.

**Hanna Jones**  
*Major: Radiologic Technology*  
*Hometown: Billings, MT*



# Be who you want to be...



**City College programs give you the practical, hands-on experience needed for a seamless transition into a high-paying career.**

***At City College you will have the opportunity to:***

- Train with cutting-edge technology and equipment.
- Learn from highly skilled instructors with industry experience.
- Intern with highly-ranked national and local companies.
- Complete clinical rotations within Billings' extensive health care network.
- Prepare for a four-year degree.



I chose City College because of their renowned automotive technology program and excellent instructors. I have really enjoyed engaging in my classes and learning about my passion.

**Ryan Kipp**  
*Major: Automotive Technology*  
*Hometown: Browning, MT*



# Be a Yellowjacket



MSUB is the only **NCAA Division II school in Montana**

**278**

- 96** from Montana
- 170** from other states
- 12** international

Student Athletes

Cumulative Student-Athlete GPA is

**3.18**

Ranked in the top **10%**

in Division II schools for community service hours

## Women's Sports

## Men's Sports

- Basketball
- Cheer/Stunt
- Cross Country
- Golf
- Soccer
- Softball
- Track and Field
- Triathlon
- Volleyball

- Basketball
- Baseball
- Cheer/Stunt
- Cross Country
- Golf
- Track and Field
- Soccer



**FREE student admission to all home games!**  
More info at

[msubsports.com](http://msubsports.com)

# Benefit...

## Is your goal to go to college but you aren't sure how to make it work financially?

Financial aid, scholarships, and payment plans are available for all students. Approximately 60% of students utilize some type of financial aid.



City College was right for me because it is close to home and has a very reasonable cost of attendance and high-quality professors who strive to provide me with a strong foundational knowledge and the skills necessary to be competent and successful in the workforce.

**Benton Asbury**  
Major: Welding & Metal Fabrication  
Hometown: Bridger, MT



**Estimate  
what your  
cost will  
be at**

[msubillings.edu/  
netprice/cc](https://msubillings.edu/netprice/cc)



**The Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) helps save you over \$10K in tuition, room & board over four years compared to other large MT institutions.**

**You automatically qualify for WUE tuition if you live in the following states:**

- Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, Guam and Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands.

**Save over**

# \$22,000

**over two years compared to private, for profit, regional institutions.**



**One of  
THE MOST  
AFFORDABLE  
options in  
our region!**



## COST OF ATTENDANCE

### One-year cost for City College

	Montana Resident	WUE Resident	Non-Resident
Tuition	\$4,070	\$5,480	\$9,260
Books & Supplies	\$1,540	\$1,540	\$1,540
Room & Board	\$7,250	\$7,250	\$7,250
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,860</b>	<b>\$14,270</b>	<b>\$18,050</b>

### One-year cost for MSU Billings

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<b>Total</b>	<b>\$15,010</b>	<b>\$17,460</b>	<b>\$28,740</b>

*The Western Undergraduate Exchange is available to qualifying students from AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, ND, NM, NV, OR, SD, UT, WA, WY, Guam, and Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands. Tuition is subject to change. Additional fees may apply. Estimated annual costs are based on 2021-2022 costs.*



## SCHOLARSHIPS

*One application, limitless scholarships*

**MSUB awards over \$1.8 million in scholarships annually.**



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*(2017 MT Dept. of Labor  
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I chose City College because I wanted to study autobody and their program and instructors are highly-regarded. I'm from a small town so Billings was also very appealing because it's a destination compared to where I came from.

**Dylan Miller**  
*Major: Autobody*  
*Hometown: Guilford, MT*



I chose City College because I knew I would receive a solid education through hands-on learning taught by very well-versed and knowledgeable instructors for an incredibly affordable price. I now feel fully prepared to move into the workforce where I can apply my new skillset and am prepared to continue my education another two more years to pursue a bachelor's degree.

**Lilly Kooistra-Manning**  
*Major: Computer Systems Technology*  
*Hometown: Billings, MT*



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# Admissions Checklist:

## Visit MSUB

Book your visit at [msubillings.edu/future](https://msubillings.edu/future) or check out our virtual campus tours

## Apply for admission

Apply online at [msubillings.edu/future/apply](https://msubillings.edu/future/apply)

## Apply for scholarships

[msubillings.edu/scholarships](https://msubillings.edu/scholarships)

Scholarships awarded on an ongoing basis

Priority deadline is February 1

## Apply for Financial Aid

Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov)

MSUB's FAFSA school code is **002530**

## Still Have Questions?

Contact Us!

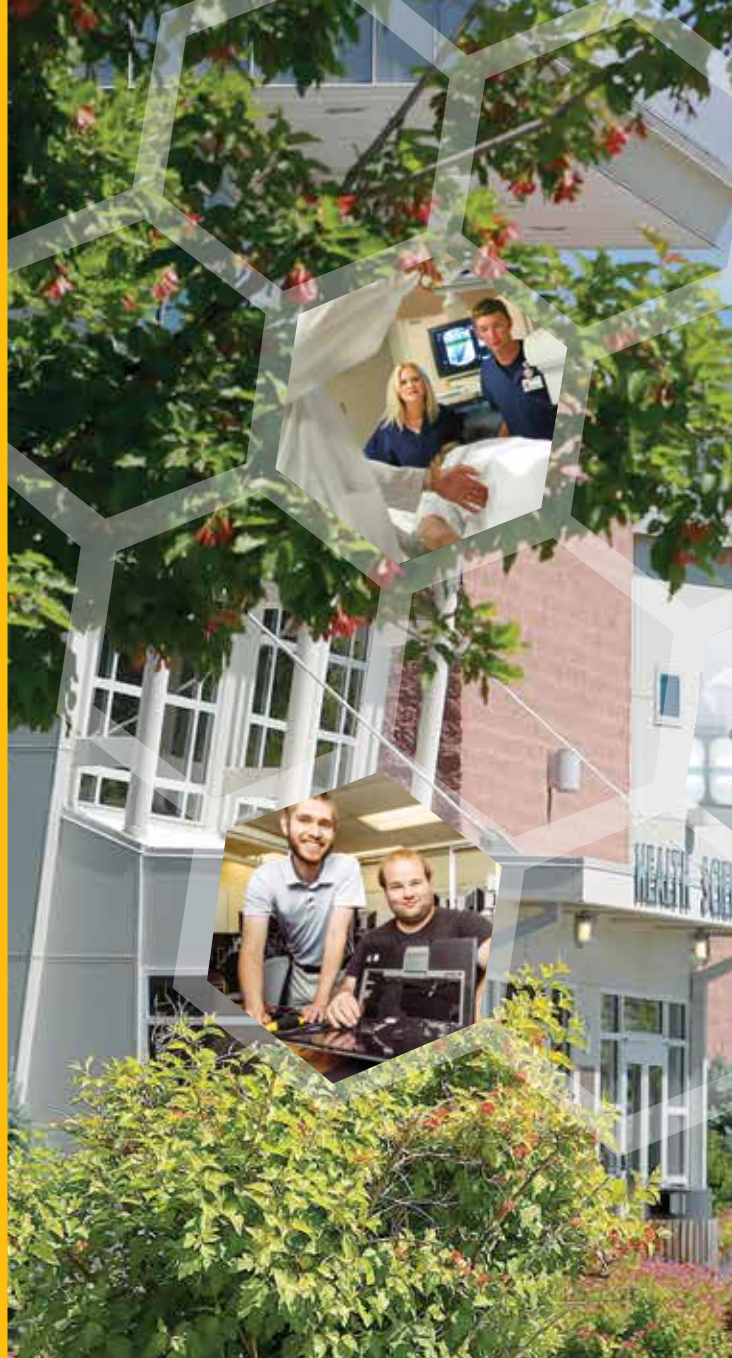
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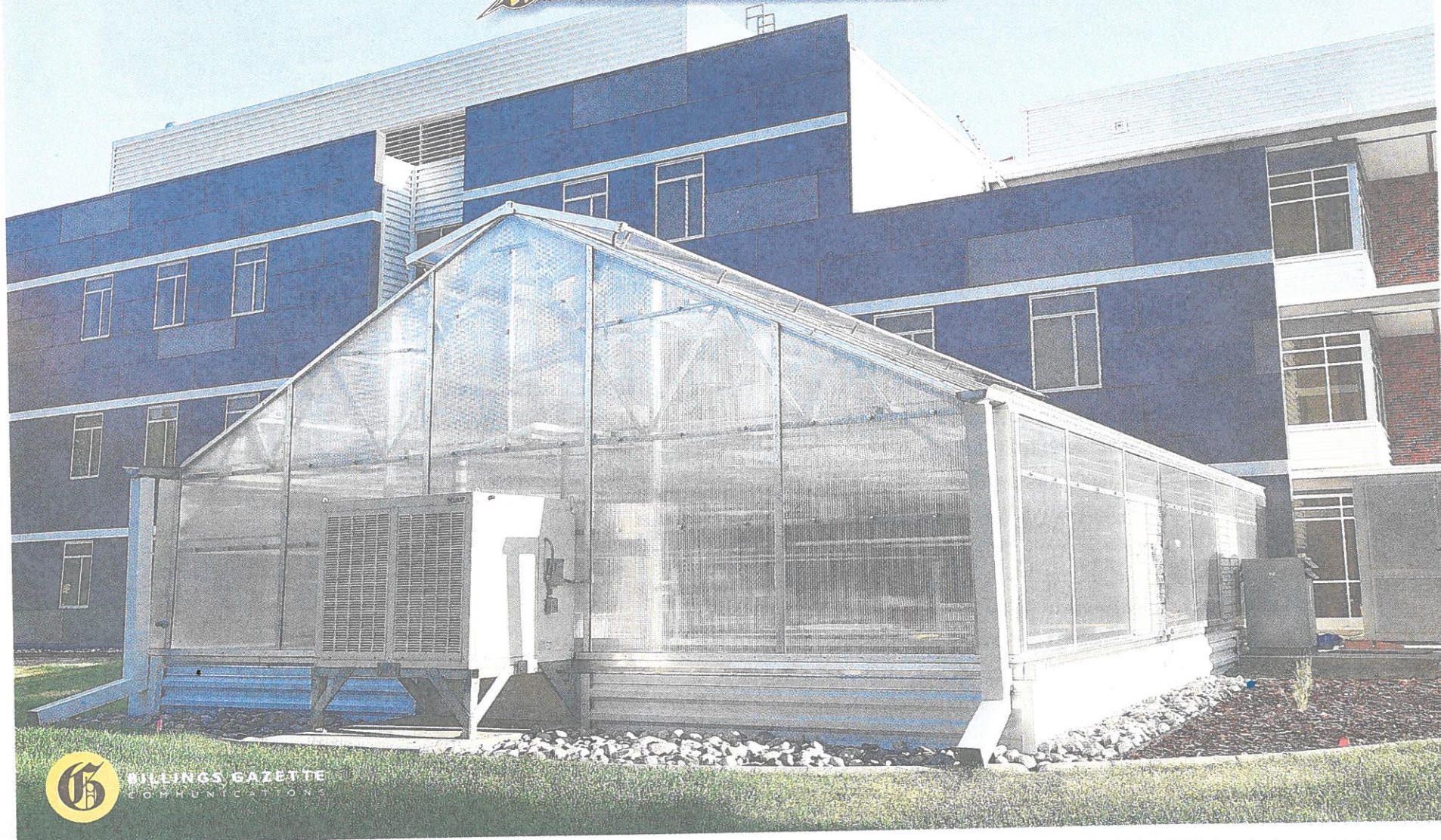
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# THE MSU BILLINGS YELLOWSTONE SCIENCE and HEALTH BUILDING



BILLINGS GAZETTE  
COMMUNICATIONS



montana state university  
**BILLINGS**

# A letter from Chancellor Hicswa

I am thrilled to announce that our Yellowstone Science and Health Building is now complete. As of last week, many of our students kicked off their fall semester classes in the new building. The journey to completion has been worth it, as this structure means so much to so many. Having followed the build-

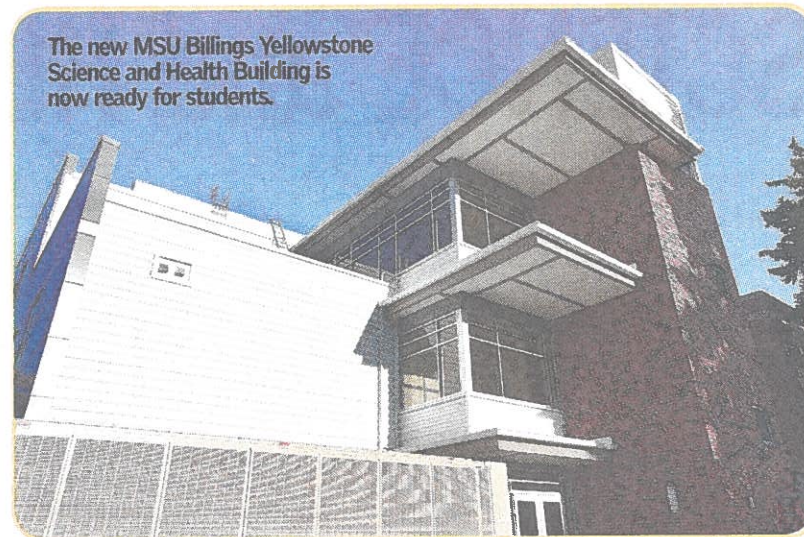


**STEFANI HICSWA**

ing's transformation before my time at MSU Billings, I am extremely proud to be at the helm of this institution and to shout from the rooftops how much this new building will benefit our campus, Billings, the region, and beyond.

MSU Billings has served eastern Montana's educational needs for the past 94 years and has responded to workforce needs by expanding program offerings and the campus to keep up with regional demands.

Within the College of Health Professions and Science, which the Yellowstone Science and Health Building now houses, we have health care programs in nursing (RN to BSN), bachelor's and master's degrees in health administration, clinical rehab and mental health counseling, athletic training, health and wellness, health and human performance, and outdoor adventure leadership—many are highly accredited. On the science side, we offer programs that often become pre-med degrees for students studying biology, broadfield science, earth science, or chemistry. This spring, James Unzaga became the third MSUB student in history to be awarded the prestigious Goldwater Scholarship, which recognizes students who excel in natural science, engineering, or mathematic research and who plan to continue research and impact their desired field of study. You can read more about James'



The new MSU Billings Yellowstone Science and Health Building is now ready for students.

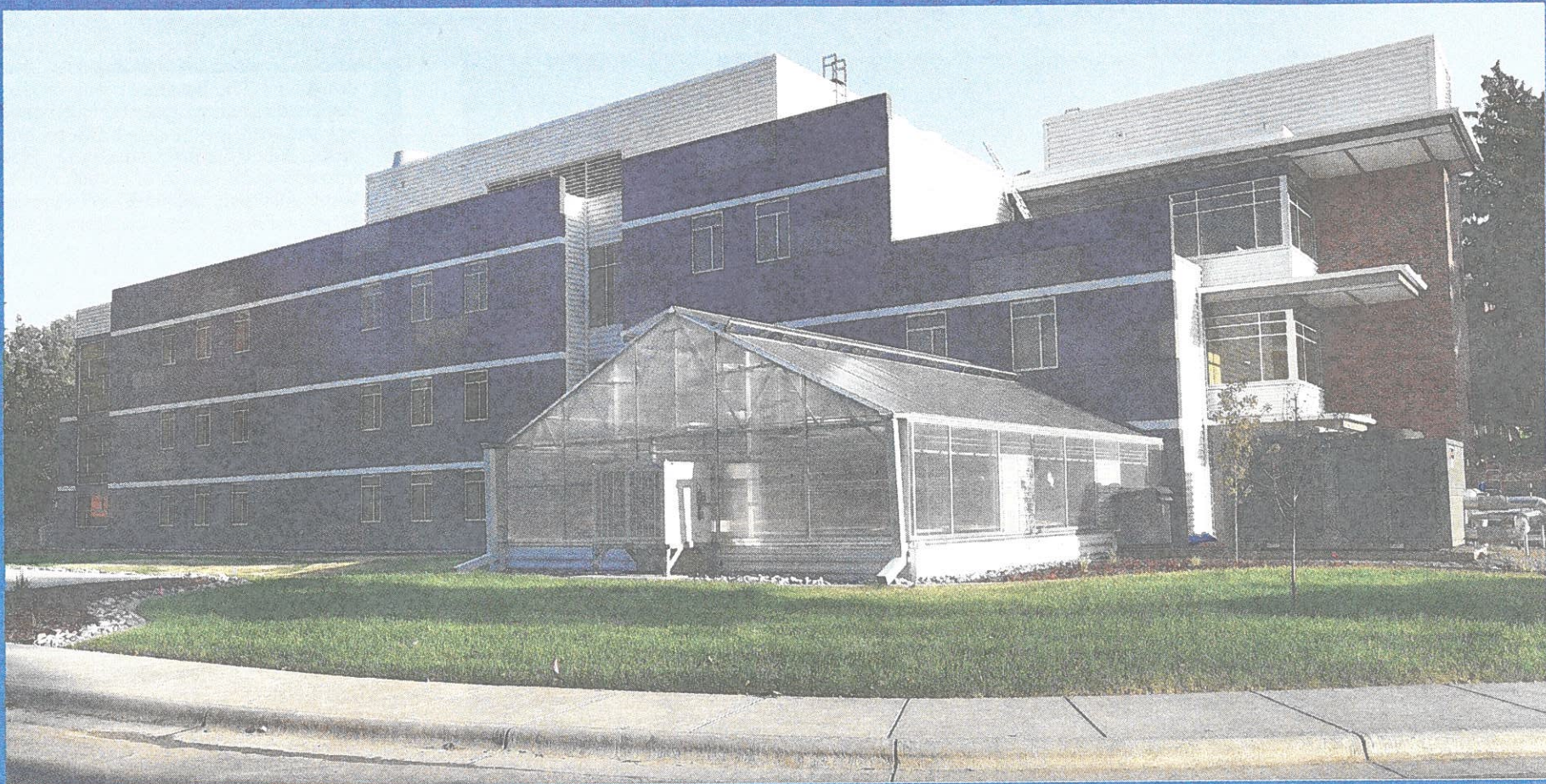
LARRY MAYER, Billings Gazette

achievement and exciting future plans in this booklet.

Situated in the health care corridor of Montana, the Yellowstone Science and Health Building and its facilities will elevate our students and advance MSU Billings as an educational leader at the forefront of the health and science industries in Montana. With 30,000 square feet of new space, 16 teaching labs, 11 research labs, dedicated student study spaces, and with state-of-the-art equipment, graduates of the College of Health Professions and Science will embark on impactful careers. These impacts will be long lasting and far reaching and will be a testament to the vision for which our leaders, faculty, staff, students, and donors combined their best efforts.

This is a story that is just beginning for our students and this community, and we have all of you to thank for that.

**Stefani Hicswa, Ph.D.**  
Chancellor, MSU Billings



**Congratulations MSUB on your new Yellowstone Science and Health Building!**

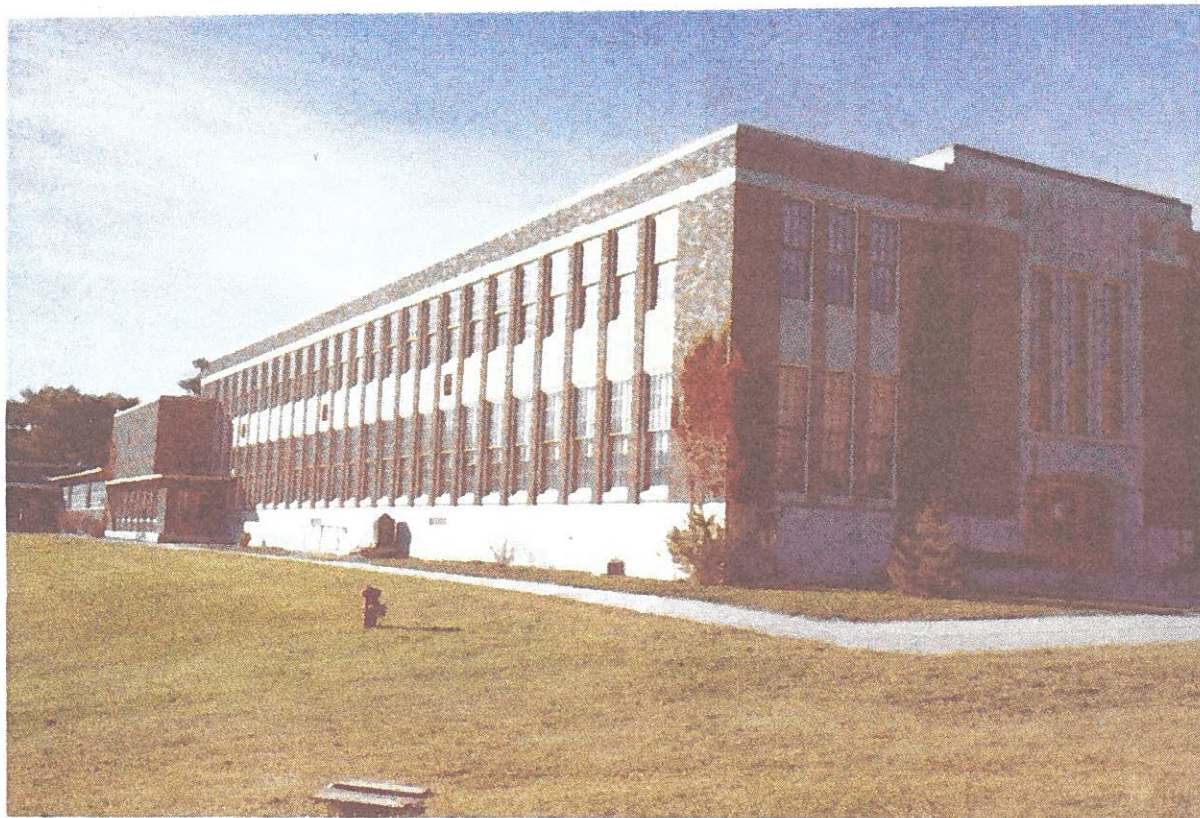
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## MSUB Yellowstone Science and Health Building HISTORICAL TIMELINE

### 94 years of student hands-on learning and excellence

**M**ontana State University Billings, originally called Eastern Montana Normal School and founded as a teacher college in 1927, continues the “hands-on” and “learn by doing” approach first implemented by Dr. Lynn McMullen, president of the college. This approach served the institution well and grew enrollment and programs significantly.

In 1946, then college President A.G. Peterson’s dream of an added science education building came true when the Postwar

Planning and Construction Commission approved a science building. President Peterson said that “Approving a science building for Eastern State will not only fill a long-felt need, but definitely shows that the commission has in mind the welfare of the young people of college age in the eastern part of the state.” The commission approved the allocation of \$175,000 for erection of the science building. Tentative plans were drawn for the building which called for a three-floor structure and a full basement. The first floor would be devoted to general classrooms and the arts and crafts department, the second floor to botany, zoology, biology, and geology, and the third floor to chemistry, physics, and meteorology. The basement would house manual training shops, a paint room, and wood and metal workshops for janitors.

In September of 1949, the Science Building neared its completion and was considered the most modern science building in Montana. It was constructed for \$325,000. The building included a faculty lounge, a girls and boys lounge with smoking sections, four science classrooms and nine laboratories. According to the student newspaper, the art department veered from the traditional school decorating colors and instead decorated the new building in harmonious yellows, blues, and greens in dynamic schemes which blend beautifully with the modern and colorful tiling of the floors. The dedication ceremony for Eastern’s Modern Science Building occurred in October of 1949.

In February of 1974, the school, now known as Eastern Montana College (EMC),

requested \$996,800 under House Bill 1108 to remodel and enlarge the existing Science Building. EMC President Stanley J. Heywood described the building as a “livable dungeon.” The basement was originally designed as a crawl space but was later dug out and crudely remodeled. Due to limited space, faculty converted storage closets into offices and much of the lab furniture was in disrepair and homemade. President Heywood argued that the present building cannot be remodeled to accommodate modern “wet” laboratory space and proposed that the new addition include a wet lab space and the existing building be remodeled to accommodate dry labs, live storage, and office space.

In 1975, funding for the Science Building addition and renovation was approved by the Montana Legislature for \$1.35 million. CTA Architects designed the addition which would include 10,000 square feet of new space and renovation of two floors of the existing building. The addition and renovations were completed in the fall of 1977, and an open house was held in February of 1978 showcasing the renovations and the new space.

Fast forward almost thirty years, the Science Building was in need of expansion to continue to effectively educate science and health students. A renovation feasibility analysis was conducted for the Science Building by Collaborative Design Architects in 2006. In 2013, the Montana Legislature appropriated \$10 million to expand and renovate the new Yellowstone Science and Health Building. The estimated building cost was around \$15 million and the MSUB Foundation was charged to raise additional funds for the building. Once they had raised \$5 million, MSUB would then be able to access the appropriations.

In 2016, the MSUB Foundation renewed fundraising efforts to reach the \$5 million required to break ground on the building. Former MSUB Chancellor Mark Nook championed the “I Am In, Ru?” initiative, giving students, faculty, and staff the opportunity to support the building project while showcasing their “Jacket pride. Two years later in 2018, the \$5 million was raised and the groundbreaking commenced. The “Buy a Brick” drive started and offered engraved and personalized bricks to donors to create an exterior donor wall recognizing the many students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends who supported the Yellowstone Science and Health Building. By December 2018, the final design of the building was completed, and construction commenced on September 9, 2019. In the spring of 2020, all current science building occupants had to vacate into temporary office and lab space. Last month, the College of Health Professions and Science faculty and staff moved into the brand-new Yellowstone Science and Health Building.

## TIMELINE

### June 5, 1946

- Science building approved by the Postwar Planning Commission (June 5, 1946)
- Commission approved \$175,000 for erection of the science building
- Their recommendations were submitted to the state legislature in January 1949 and they appropriated funds from a reserve built up from the war
- Science building — Sept. 28, 1949 — reaching fruition — the most modern Science building in Montana.
- Faculty lounge
- Girls and boys lounge with smoking sections
- Science classes and laboratory classes
- Constructed at the cost of \$325,000
- \$40,000 worth of equipment
- 9 labs
- 4 general classrooms
- Chemistry, physics taught on second floor
- Zoology, bacteriology, botany taught on first floor
- Wildlife museum
- Floors have green and black tiling
- Walls hold exhibitions of aquarii and terraria

### Feb 8, 1974

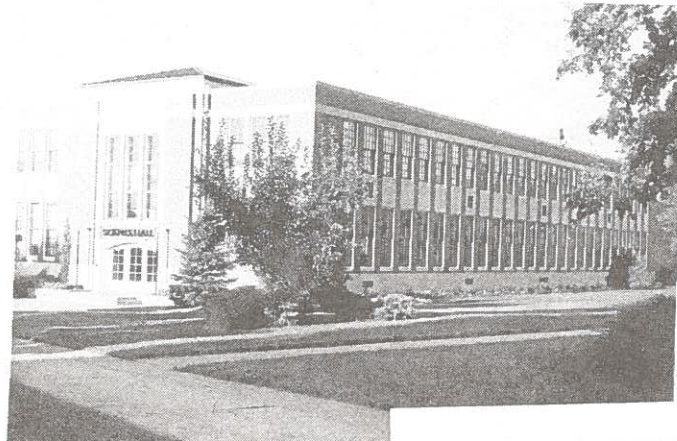
- Under HB 1158, \$996,800 was requested to remodel and expand the science building
- May 26, 1975: Science Building Expansion approved
- \$1.35 million addition and expansion of 10,000 square feet—mostly laboratory space
- Started the expansion in 1976 and completed in fall of 1977—open house Feb 1978
- CTA Architects in Billings designed the addition

### 2006

- Renovation Feasibility analysis carried out for the Science Building by Collaborative Design Architects

### 2013

- Legislature appropriated \$10 million for the new Yellowstone Science and Health Building
- Estimated cost of \$15 million
- Once \$5 million is raised, MSUB could access the appropriations
- MSUB Foundation tasked to raise additional funds for building



### 2013

- Begin design Phase for the Yellowstone Science and Health Building

### 2016

- MSUB Foundation renews fundraising effort to reach the \$5 million required to break ground.
- Former MSUB Chancellor Mark Nook champions the "I Am In, Ru?" initiative, which gives students and faculty alike the opportunity to support the YSHB while showcasing their 'Jacket Pride.'

### 2017

- Programming of the Yellowstone Science and Health Building completed

### August 2018

- \$5 million required to break ground is raised by the MSUB Foundation
- The "Buy a Brick" drive offered engraved and personalized bricks to donors to create an exterior donor wall recognizing the many students, staff, faculty, alumni, and friends who support the Yellowstone Science and Health Building.

### Sept. 12, 2018

- Groundbreaking commences for new building
- Total project now estimated at \$17.1 million
- 30,000 sq ft expansion
- 16 teaching labs
- 11 research labs
- LEED certified building
- Triple hood lab spaces

- Dedicated student study spaces
- State-of-the-art equipment and technology

### Dec. 2018

- Final design of the Yellowstone Science and Health Building completed

### Sept. 9, 2019

- Construction commences



### May 30 2020

- Science Building is vacated. Department of Biological and Physical Sciences moves into temporary lab spaces.

### August 2021

- College of Health Professions and Science moves into the Yellowstone Science and Health Building

**Thank you**

**MSU-Billings**

**for letting us participate in this project!**

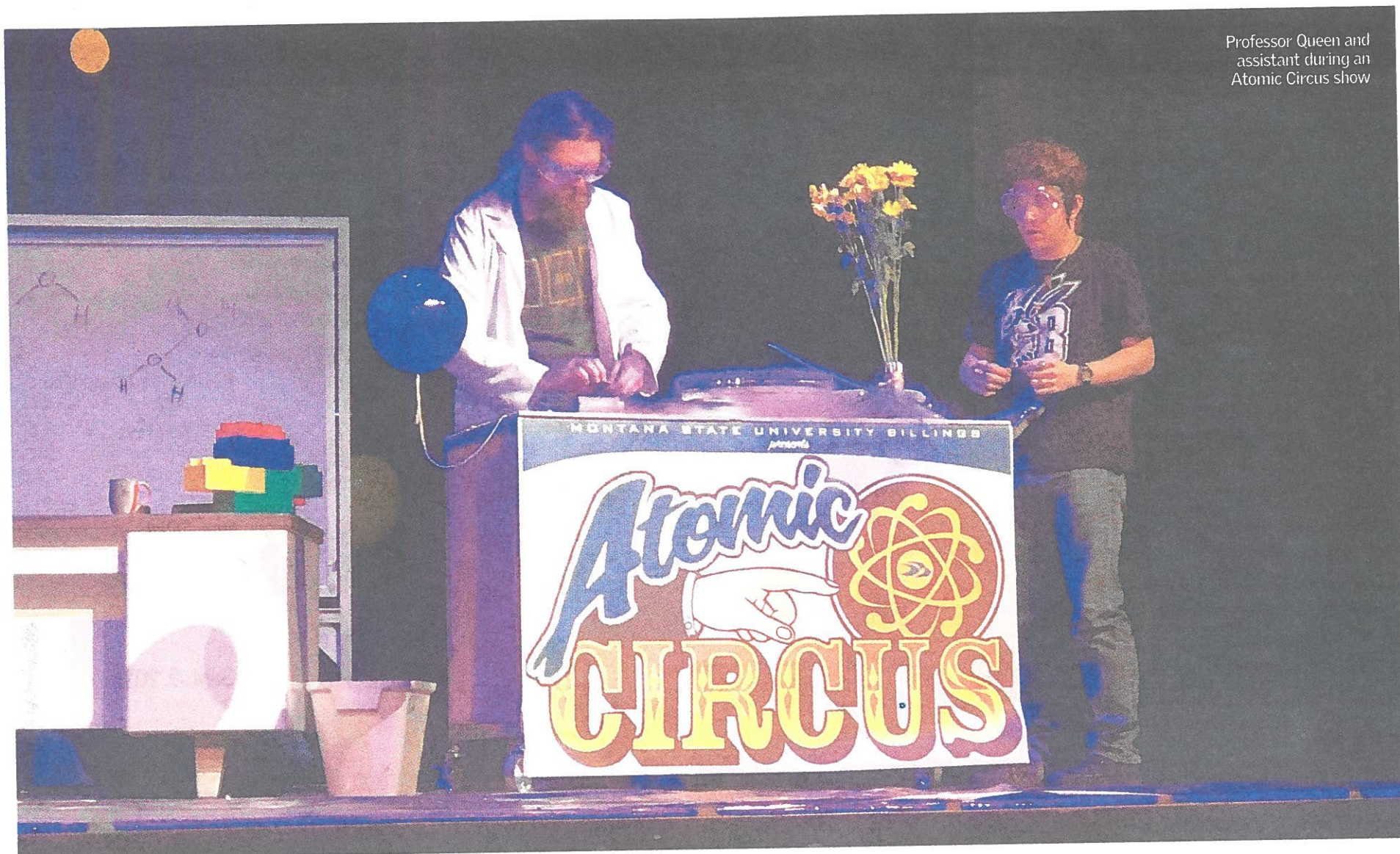
**Congratulations on your new Science Building!**

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Professor Queen and assistant during an Atomic Circus show



# WHAT'S NEW in the College of Health Professions and Science

**A**t last, the College of Health Professions and Science is under one roof in the beautiful new Yellowstone Science and Health building. Faculty and students are excited for what this means; more opportunities for closer collaboration on research projects,

building stronger connections and relationships, and more opportunities for student internships and research. The future is full of possibilities and opportunities, and faculty have already been busy this past year conducting notable research and supporting and developing our students, one of whom

recently received the prestigious Goldwater Scholarship.

## Department of Biological and Physical Sciences

The Biological and Physical Sciences department is an interdisciplinary department, meaning that they don't divide themselves into several separate science departments, but one inclusive department with biologists, chemists, physicists, and earth scientists, all who work in collaboration to design and administer the best possible academic programs. Their students are exposed to additional science disciplines which molds them into well-rounded thinkers who can approach and solve problems using a broad knowledge base.

Recent department highlights include the Atomic Circus, two Goldwater Scholars (2019, 2021), running MSUB's COVID-19 testing lab, National Institutes of

Health funded IDEA Network of Biomedical Research (INBRE) grants, undergraduate research, clinical internships, and cutting-edge Alzheimer's research.

## Atomic Circus

Professors Matthew Queen and Amanda Obery recently received a \$1.2 million grant from the National Institutes of Health's highly competitive Science Education Partnership Award to continue their youth-based science program known as the Atomic Circus. Their project promotes STEM education through a fun and engaging curriculum for elementary school students in eastern Montana, and plans are in the works to travel to five rural Montana locations—Wyola, Glendive, Plevna, Poplar, and Frazer. Their goal is to create experiences for elementary students in rural eastern Montana that showcase the local relevance of biomedical research in their current lives.



## James Unzaga

James Unzaga, now a senior, was a recipient of the prestigious 2021 Barry Goldwater Scholarship, which recognizes top students in STEM fields who plan to continue research and impact their desired field of study. James was selected from 1,256 nominated sophomores and juniors from 438 U.S. higher education institutions. He is the third MSUB Goldwater Scholarship recipient. A first-generation college student, James originally wanted to get through college as fast as possible in order to start a career in the petroleum industry making high wages. However, as he continued his college education, his ambitions changed, and he now has a goal to earn his doctorate in biomaterials science. James credits Professors Queen, Dillman, and Butler for fueling his continued passion and interests in science and has participated successfully in various undergraduate research projects. Aside from excelling academically with a 3.96 GPA and his research involvement, he also finds time to mentor peers and tutor students in organic chemistry, which is commonly viewed as one of the most rigorous science classes, serves as MSUB's student body President, and is a University Honors Program Council member. Professor Butler mentions that he is thoroughly impressed with James' ability to articulate scientific thoughts and ideas clearly and concisely, which is one of the most difficult skills to



## Congratulations MSU-Billings on the new science building!

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David Butler and lab assistant Cody Walters

master for undergraduates and a good indication of one's intellectual abilities and understanding of science.

### Professor David Butler and lab assistant Cody Walters

**COVID-19 Testing Lab:** Throughout the coronavirus pandemic, Professor David Butler has been actively running and managing the new MSUB COVID-19 testing laboratory along with Cody Walters, an MSUB graduate and former Goldwater Scholarship recipient, who recently started medical school at the University of California, Davis (UC Davis). The testing lab will also have the capacity to test for other viruses to better serve the student population and provide additional research and employment options for science and health students.

**NIH:** MT-INBRE Undergraduate Research and Clinical Internships: Faculty in the College of Health Professions and Science received a five-year award in 2019 (~\$92k per year) to offer undergraduate students research op-

portunities in public health and biomedical related areas. It also supports clinical internships for students during their final clinical year of the Medical Laboratory Sciences program. In 2021 MSUB's goal is to support 19 students between the two programs.

### Daniel Willems, Ph.D.

**Alzheimer's Research:** MSU Billings Assistant Professor Daniel Willems, Ph.D. has been conducting Alzheimer's disease (AD) research for the past six years. His research is funded through an IDeA Network of Biomedical Research (INBRE) pilot grant and involves a strong collaboration with Montana State University (MSU), Emory University, and the University of Alaska-Anchorage.

A significant aspect of AD is a remarkable decrease in brain volume. This is particularly intriguing because the human brain is nearly 70% lipid (fat) material. Willems' research is focused on identifying differences in lipid content between the brains of AD



KELLY GORHAM/ Montana State University

Daniel Willems

patients and brain tissue from cognitively normal individuals (control samples). Brain tissue samples are sourced from brain banks at Emory University, Oregon State University, and from the ABLÉ brain bank in Australia.

Always up for a challenge, Willems started researching lipids and AD while in graduate school at MSU. He says, "brain lipids are likely to uncover more of the secrets to the story of Alzheimer's than any other material." A neurodegenerative disease, Alzheimer's disease is the 7th leading cause of death in the U.S., knocked down from 6th by the 'new' 2nd place holder COVID-19; COVID-19 is the subject of another of Willems' research interests.

The main goal in Willems' AD research is identifying biomarkers for Alzheimer's for use in diagnosis early enough in the disease progression to make lifestyle interventions effective. Willems notes that once Alzheimer's

has progressed to where traditional diagnostic methods can detect it, significant brain mass has been lost and it is too late to change the course of the disease. He says that he's not focused on finding a cure, as it is not practical at this point. Willems says there are a few FDA-approved medications (one of them very recently) to treat AD symptoms, but each has a limited efficacy. They are effective for about the first 3-9 months, rarely longer, and then the effectiveness rapidly wears off; therefore, there is such a dire need for new answers in AD research. "We know the symptoms and the effects of Alzheimer's, but we don't really understand the root cause of it," says Willems.

Willems is excited to bring his research and the students who are conducting it into the new building in the coming weeks. Willems has two students who started working as soon as the building was useable and three more

Paula McMahon



Skoog Photography

that will start this fall. Willems is adamant that he always includes students in his research projects and enjoys new partnerships and collaborations the unique research ideas bring.

### Department of Rehabilitation and Human Services

The mission of the Department of Rehabilitation and Human Services is to provide leadership and professional preparation for rehabilitation and mental health counselors and human services professionals in a challenging and innovative environment. Throughout this past year, faculty participated in high-level research presentations at various conferences, including the International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals, Northwestern eLearning Conference, American Indian and Minority Achievement Council, and the International Academy of Life Care Planning. A recent research project included a review of the outcome data of North Dakota's Supported Employment Program whose objectives are to raise awareness among college athletes of their own attitudes; to provide them with an opportunity to hear personal stories of hope and recovery from their peers with mental illness; and to improve referral and access to mental health resources on campus and in the community.

#### Assistant Professor Paula McMahon

Another recent research project fo-

cused on surveying members and individual participants of An Alliance of Organizations and People Opposed to Racism to identify what specific issues of racism are considered most important in the Billings community.

A partnership between MSUB, MSU's College of Nursing, Billings Clinic, and the Montana Office of Rural Health and Area Education Center was recently established to provide training opportunities and financial support for students working to become psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners, mental health counselors, or psychiatrists. This work is supported by a four-year, \$1.8 million grant from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration.

### Health Care Services Department

The Health Care Services department offers a bachelor's and master's degree in Health Administration, and a competitive online Registered Nurse (RN) to bachelor's in nursing (BSN) program. Their mission is to educate and prepare individuals to meet the challenges of health care in our region, advance quality of care to all, and meet anticipated workforce needs. The department maintains strong community partnerships and provides various instructional formats to meet the needs of their students, including flexible online program options.

#### Assistant Professor Becky Anglin

Assistant Professor Becky Anglin, department chair, was named Year of the Nurse Scholar based on excellence in community service, personal commitment to education, leadership potential and commitment to the healthcare profession. Anglin is also working on a grant that will help to train nurses to improve their screening and education for Montana's youth on substance use, as this is a rising concern in the state. She also recently completed her Doctor of Nursing Practice in Educational Leadership and says that the program has helped her become more skilled and knowledgeable in instructional technology and course curriculum design. Assistant Professor Lacy Bangert also recently completed her Doctor of Health Administration, which will help bring new content to the health administration program and elevate student learning.

#### Assistant Professor Rebecca Muller

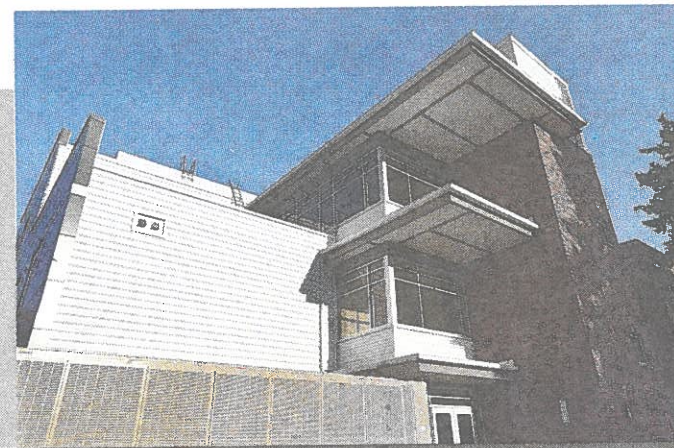
Assistant Professor Rebecca Muller is currently conducting research for the Montana Veteran Affairs Administration on the importance of deprescribing after an educational training and is also working towards a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree. Muller also serves as the Medical Director for MSUB's Stu-

Becky Anglin



dent Health Services. Anglin, Bangert, and Muller are excited for the future of the Health Care Services department with the completion of the new building and look forward to better serving their students.

# NEIL DRYWALL



## Congratulations MSU-Billings on your new science building!

We are glad to have been a part of this project!

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## Department of Health and Human Performance

The mission of the Department of Health and Human Performance is to prepare highly competent professionals who are committed to leadership, lifelong learning, exceptional service, and the promotion of healthy lifestyles in diverse health, physical education, and sport settings. Undergraduates conduct individual research projects as part of their senior thesis and apply their knowledge in the pursuit of advancing health and human performance. Graduate study in the department includes coursework, research, and internship opportunities for students to advance their personal and professional competence in these areas.

### Associate Professor Alex Shafer

This past spring, Associate Profes-

sor Alex Shafer was awarded a Montana IDEA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence grant to purchase an OptiTrack 6 camera 3D motion capture system. These cameras will be mounted in the new building's human movement lab specifically designed for instruction and research in the areas of motor learning and control, kinesiology, and biomechanics. This system will produce and display biomechanical data such as velocity, acceleration, forces, and joint angles in real time, which will enhance students' hands-on learning experience using technology that they will likely use in their research, internships, and future careers.

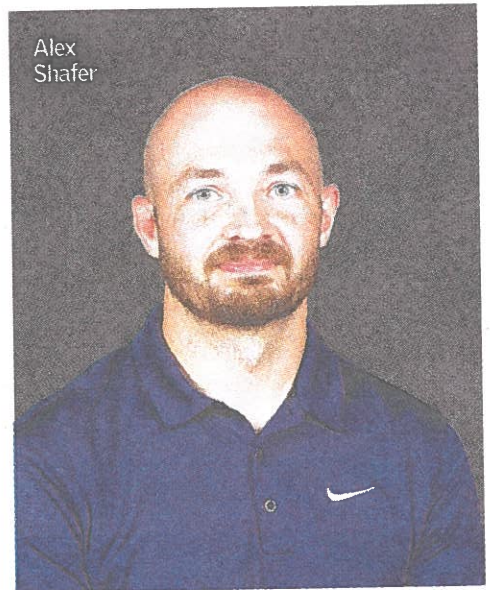
### Assistant Professor Jeff Willardson

Assistant Professor Jeff Willardson recently published six peer-reviewed

research studies on various topics related to exercise science and strength and conditioning in the International Journal of Exercise Science, Human Movement, Science & Sports, and the Journal of Bodywork and Movement Therapies.

### Instructor Jay Santy

Instructor Jay Santy organized a collaborative effort between Eagle Mount and MSUB where elementary students with special needs come to MSUB for their physical education (PE) activities during class time. This partnership is mutually beneficial as children with disabilities experience group PE they may not otherwise experience at their elementary school, and MSUB students receive "real-world" experience working in adapted PE in a supervised environment.



Alex Shafer



Professor Willardson with student-athlete Lexi Bloyder

Skoog Photography

Photo of construction of the Yellowstone Science and Health Building.

LARRY MAYER Billings Gazette



## Message from Dr. Kurt Toenjes, Dean of the College of Health Professions and Science

It is almost surreal that this building project has come to fruition. It has been a long journey with many obstacles, however together we were able to make this dream come true. Thank you to everyone who believed in us, who supported this building project with contributions of time and energy. You all played a key role in its success. I would also like to specifically thank our donors—without your contributions, this would not have become a reality for our MSUB community. This new building means so much to our faculty and staff who now have state-of-the-art laboratories and classrooms to educate and train our students more effectively. Our students will benefit tremendously from this new building well into the future. They will be able to learn cutting edge techniques, participate in new collaborations, partnerships, research projects and internships, which will elevate their MSUB experience and make them more competitive as they pursue further education or enter the workforce.



**KURT  
TOENJES**

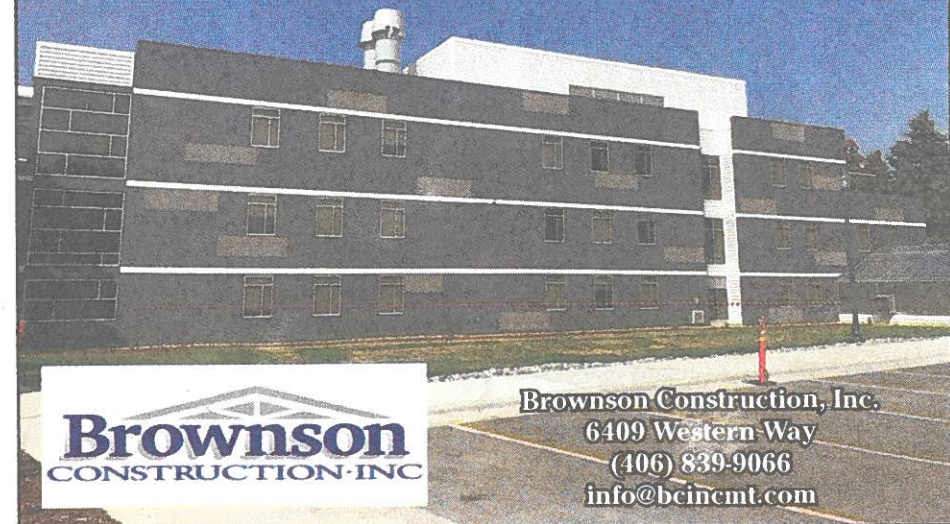
Sincerely,

**Dr. Kurt Toenjes**

*Dean, College of Health Professions and Science*

# Congratulations

## MSU-Billings on Your New Science Building!





# Coming together for the GREATER GOOD

Gareld and Barbara Krieg have been staunch supporters of MSUB and its students for more than two decades. Since 1989, the pair lent their support to MSU Billings Foundation's Annual Drive for Excellence through phonathon gifts, then shifted their focus to the Science Department. In 2013, the Kriegs added the Yellowstone Science and Health Building to their passion projects and became early adopters of a vision that positions MSU Billings to lead the region in science and health professions.

Although Gareld never attended MSU Billings, his ties to the institution are strong.

As a boy, he learned about Eastern Montana State Normal School through a faculty member who was a friend of his mother's. His Boy Scouts program brought him on campus. Gareld recalled how his father, a member of the Montana State Legislature, was an ardent champion of the college. Even today, those deep roots are strengthened through his son-in-law, a science professor on campus. But it is his late wife, Barbara Barney Krieg, a 1962 alumna of Eastern Montana College, whose affinity for the university and love of education inspired the couple's most significant philanthropic work.

The Krieg name is synonymous with growth, improvement, and inspiration – true leadership-by-doing that invests in holistic community development. Gareld worked on the board of trustees for Rocky Mountain College in the 1980s, was a Rotary Club member, and aids the Yellowstone Art Museum as an emeritus board member. While the family was always her priority, Barbara was active in several organizations, including Tumbleweed, Billings Junior League, and was a 50-year member of PEO Chapter Y.

In 2019, Gareld and Barbara were honored with the "Friends of MSU Billings" award. The Anatomy & Physiology Lab is on the ground floor of the building and is named in their honor: The Gareld and Barbara Krieg Anatomy & Physiology Lab. It is a fitting tribute for a couple who focused on coming together for the greater good.

# A LEGACY LIVES ON

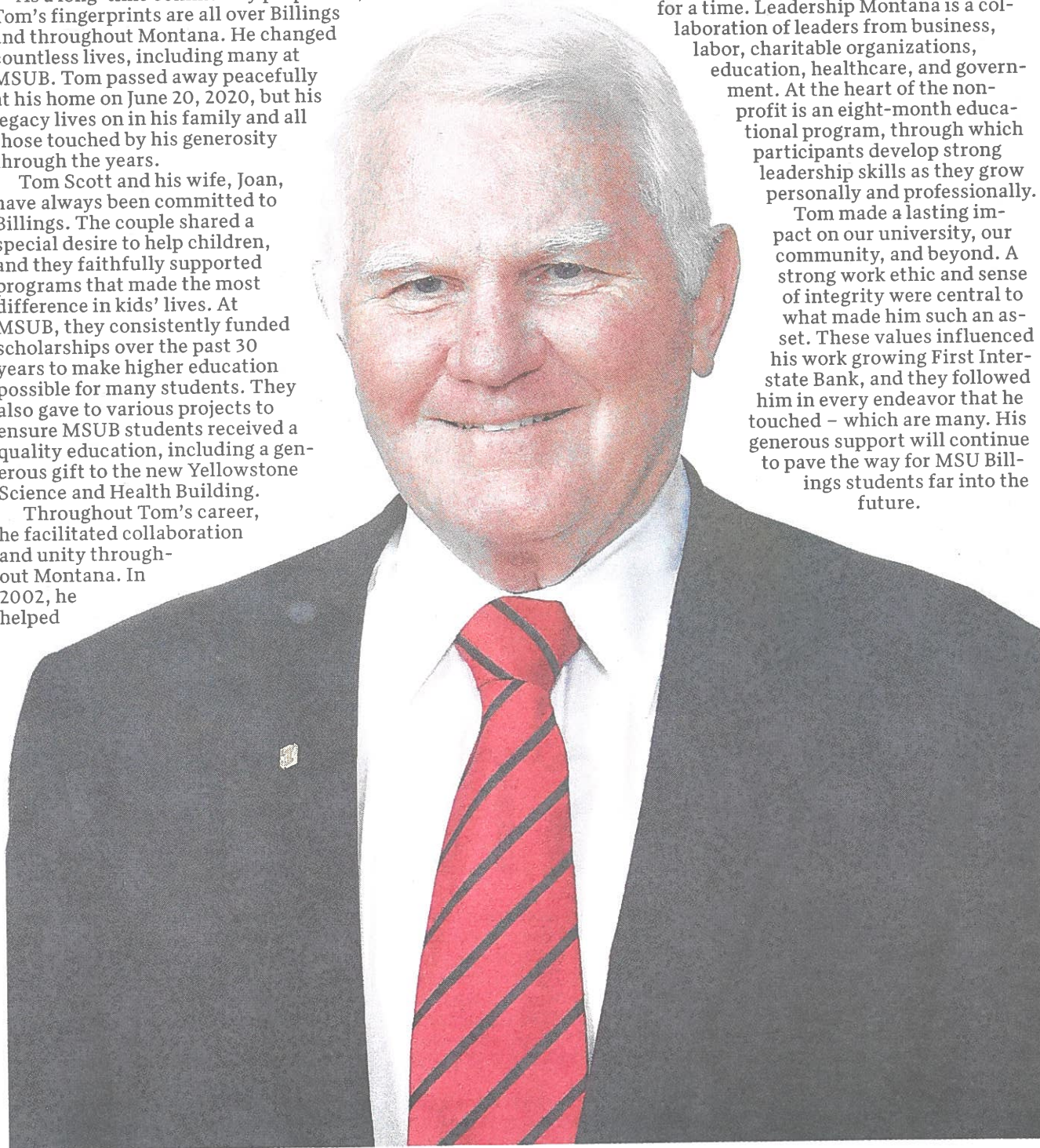
As a long-time community proponent, Tom's fingerprints are all over Billings and throughout Montana. He changed countless lives, including many at MSUB. Tom passed away peacefully at his home on June 20, 2020, but his legacy lives on in his family and all those touched by his generosity through the years.

Tom Scott and his wife, Joan, have always been committed to Billings. The couple shared a special desire to help children, and they faithfully supported programs that made the most difference in kids' lives. At MSUB, they consistently funded scholarships over the past 30 years to make higher education possible for many students. They also gave to various projects to ensure MSUB students received a quality education, including a generous gift to the new Yellowstone Science and Health Building.

Throughout Tom's career, he facilitated collaboration and unity throughout Montana. In 2002, he helped

start Leadership Montana, which he chaired for a time. Leadership Montana is a collaboration of leaders from business, labor, charitable organizations, education, healthcare, and government. At the heart of the non-profit is an eight-month educational program, through which participants develop strong leadership skills as they grow personally and professionally.

Tom made a lasting impact on our university, our community, and beyond. A strong work ethic and sense of integrity were central to what made him such an asset. These values influenced his work growing First Interstate Bank, and they followed him in every endeavor that he touched - which are many. His generous support will continue to pave the way for MSU Billings students far into the future.



## From Coal Country to Campus

On March 22, 2018, Montana's Coal Board awarded \$500,000 toward the new Yellowstone Science and Health Building. While the university ultimately received the award, the result was anything but certain. Over the course of four Coal Board meetings, the project application was tabled, awarded, recommended for withdrawal, submitted again under a new partnership, tabled again, and finally awarded.

The Yellowstone Science and Health Building application came before the Coal Board for the first time in September 2017. Upon review, the state revenue necessary to award funding to MSU Billings had not yet been received. This meant funds would not be available until December 2017, delaying the project.

On January 18, 2018, the Coal Board reconvened at MSU Billings. With funds in hand for disbursement, the university's application was considered once again; however, the board was not unanimous in their vote. A few weeks later, the Coal Board notified MSU Billings that they overlooked a law defining recipient eligibility, putting the award in danger. Fortunately, a last-minute partnership with Big Sky Economic Development made the university eligible for funding, so MSU Billings submitted a new application just in time for the Coal Board's February meeting.

The new application was refused by a split-decision vote between the board's six members. But there was still the matter of the previous month's \$500,000 award. The motion to withdraw the \$500,000 according to staff recommendations was made, and that motion also failed with a 3-3 vote. Now at an impasse, the application was tabled another month.

On March 22, 2018, the Coal Board convened amid a crowd. Numerous MSU Billings supporters filled the room, many of whom spoke in favor of the Yellowstone Science and Health Building. With the crowd anxiously awaiting a decision, Big Horn County Commissioner Sidney Fitzpatrick motioned to approve the university's new application. The vote resulted in the Coal Board's final \$500,000 award to the Yellowstone Science and Health Building. The Coal Board grant was the catalyst to leverage other dollars and one of the main reasons this new building exists.

Thank you to the entire Coal Board for your investment in MSUB students, who come from all over coal country.



# INVESTING IN STUDENTS

Carl Ueland '70, an alumnus and successful business owner, along with his wife Barbara, gave the first donation towards the new Yellowstone Science and Health Building. The Uelands are true philanthropists, paying it forward by investing in charities, in Carl's alma mater and in the students who attend MSUB. Carl represents what education is: gaining knowledge, skills, and experience and then using it to improve one's life and the lives of others.

Carl grew up on a ranch in Butte, Montana, and followed his older brother, Ray, to study at what was then Eastern Montana College (EMC). While studying at EMC, Carl joined the cross country and track teams as well as student government. He majored in biology and minored in chemistry. After he graduated in 1970, he used the knowledge and skills gained at EMC to create successful businesses.

One of Carl's companies, Actagro, LLC, developed an innovative fertilizing process

to be used on many food crops, increasing the fertilizer's effectiveness. Actagro has been a successful national company for many years, expanding its reach globally. As his company grew, so did the Uelands' ability to give back. In 2012, Carl promoted the sale of his company while retaining some ownership. He retired in the fall of 2013.

Because of Carl's science background, the MSUB Foundation approached him about supporting a potential opportunity

to renovate and expand MSUB's science building. After funds were appropriated for the project by the state, Carl and Barbara made the very first donation toward the building project. Periodic visits to MSUB have allowed Carl to view the building's progress and create connections with faculty and students. The Uelands believe that investing in the new Yellowstone Science and Health building is necessary for the future of the university, its students, and the local economy.



# YELLOWSTONE SCIENCE AND HEALTH BUILDING DONORS

## \$1,000,000 and above

- Carl '70 & Barbara Ueland

## \$500,000-\$999,999

- Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation
- Montana Coal Board

## \$250,000-\$499,999

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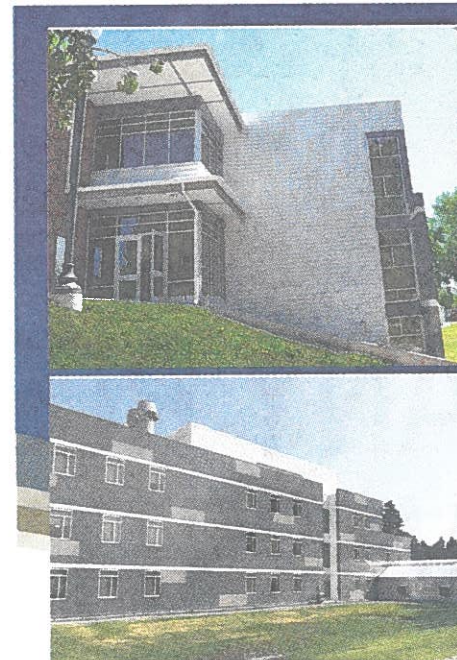
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- Lisa M. Wilson '98
- Douglas '68 & Kathleen Yates



We congratulate  
**Montana State University - Billings**  
 on their new  
**Yellowstone Science and Health Building**  
 and are proud to have provided the Site Civil Design for this project.



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# BOTANY RESEARCH LAB AND DIVERSITY GREEN HOUSE

Situated on the ground floor of the new building is a state-of-the-art green house, which is managed by botanist Jason Comer, Ph.D. The green house is home to rare and unique specimens such as the cocoa plant, papyrus (paper) plant, carnivorous plants, cinnamon tree, jasmine plant, dancing plants (they move to musical vibrations and in re-

sponse to light), and the corpse flower (titan arum), which smells like a decaying corpse. None of these specimens are native to Montana so students have unique opportunities for research. Comer will continuously add new and unique plants to the collection to give students a broader range of exposure to more diverse plants and flowers.

## Herbarium

MSUB's herbarium goes back to 1927 when the very first science faculty started a collection of his own and student plant specimens. An herbarium is a collection of preserved plant specimens used for scientific research. MSUB's herbarium includes specimens as far back as 1863 from the Michigan area

and specimens native to Montana from 1902. The diversity of the herbarium includes specimens from all over the globe and Comer hopes to continue to increase the diversification. A recent addition to the collection was donated by retired U.S. Forest Service Ranger spanning nearly 40 years from the local region.

GARELD & BARBARA  
KRIEG

# ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY LAB



The new building houses a dedicated anatomy and physiology lab with the newest feature, a cadaver lab. MSUB has not had a cadaver lab on campus in over a decade. The cadaver lab includes a separate ventilation system and surgical lighting system for optimal focus and will eventually house two human cadavers for upper-level students in Health and Human Performance pro-

grams and other science programs to perform dissection and extensive hands-on learning projects. The cadavers will come from the Montana Body Donation Program housed on the MSU campus in Bozeman, MT, a fully in-state program. The cadaver program is supported by the Anatomy and Physiology Fund housed in the MSUB Foundation.

## Congratulations

### on the New Building!

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***“The new building will provide an environment conducive to sharing the passion we have for science with our students and the community.”***

**David Butler, Ph.D.**  
Molecular Biology and Genetics

***“We have excellent researchers in our college. Finally, after many decades, we have a home that can maximize their ability to teach and conduct research. The new building will easily accommodate these efforts and hopefully readily house efforts in the sciences for many decades to come.”***

**Michele McMullen**  
University Lecturer, Nutrition



***“The Yellowstone Science and Health building will create more opportunities for faculty and students to participate in high quality scholarship activities in Health and Human Performance. It will be equipped with world class technology to enable highly innovative laboratory experiences to prepare students for successful careers. The Health and Human Performance program will enable students to engage in an optimal setting to obtain an outstanding education.”***

**Jeff Willardson, Ph.D.**  
Health and Human Performance



***“Students will start their education in a state-of-the-art building specifically designed just for them.”***

**Kurt Toenjes, Ph.D.**  
Dean of the College of Health Professions and Science



Skoog Photography

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

On the completion of the new Yellowstone Health & Science Building. We are excited to help provide opportunities for integrated learning for health professions and science students.

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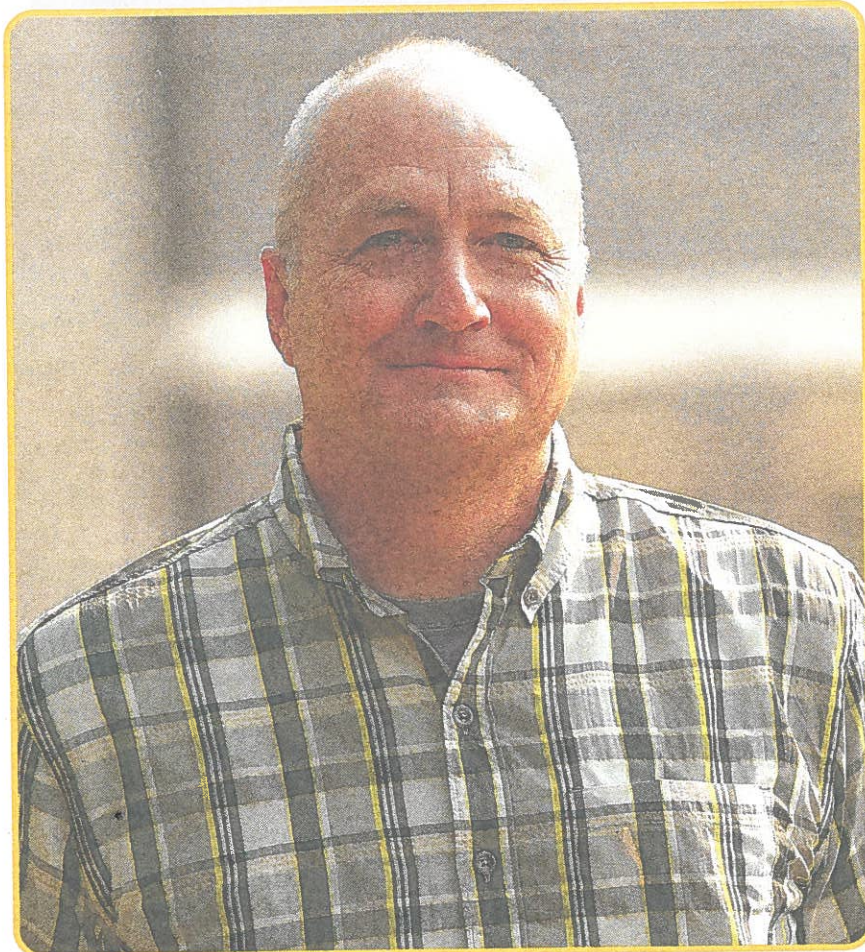
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***“The Yellowstone Science and Health building will provide MSUB the opportunity to produce more graduates in science and health-related fields. This will benefit not only individual students as they realize their career goals but will benefit both Montana’s economy and the health of its residents.”***

**Carl Castles, Ph.D.**

Chair of the Department of Biological and Physical Sciences



Skoog Photography

***“I really see the new building as an opportunity to invest in our students and programs that will then allow for growth of our university. Students will continue to learn from some of the best faculty in their field and now will become well-versed and proficient in using some of the most up-to-date equipment and technology in the health, human performance, and wellness industries.”***

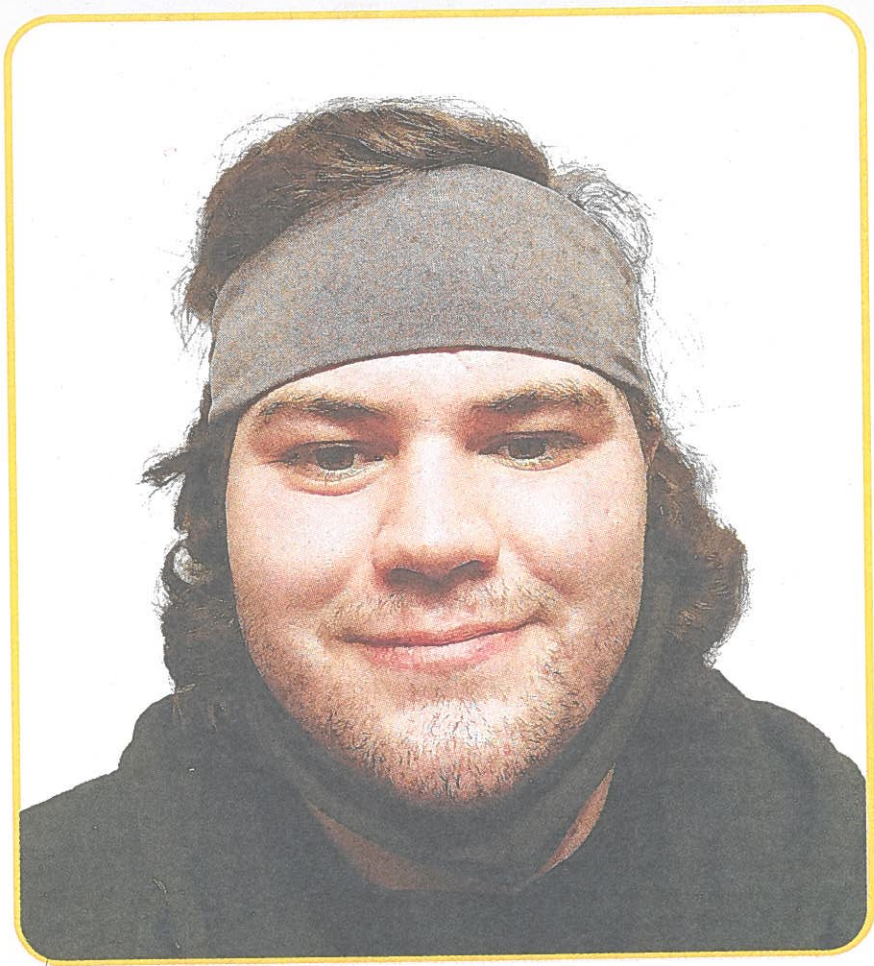
**Suzette Nynas, Ed.D.**

Department Chair of Health and Human Performance

***“One of the greatest things about MSUB is the passion of the professors, who work incredibly hard to ensure they’re training competent science and health professionals. The new labs in the Yellowstone Science and Health building will give the professors the ability to take education and research to new heights, while continuing to develop competitive and skilled scientists and health professionals. Additionally, the open labs and classroom concept, combined with the new student study spaces will attract anyone to come and share their love for the health and sciences. This is a game-changer for MSUB and the region.”***

**Kelton Houston**

**Major:** Chemistry & Biology | **Hometown:** Billings



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on your new  
**Science Building!**

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***“Having a new greenhouse is exciting. Having more space and organization to conduct their own research will be beneficial to future botanists.”***

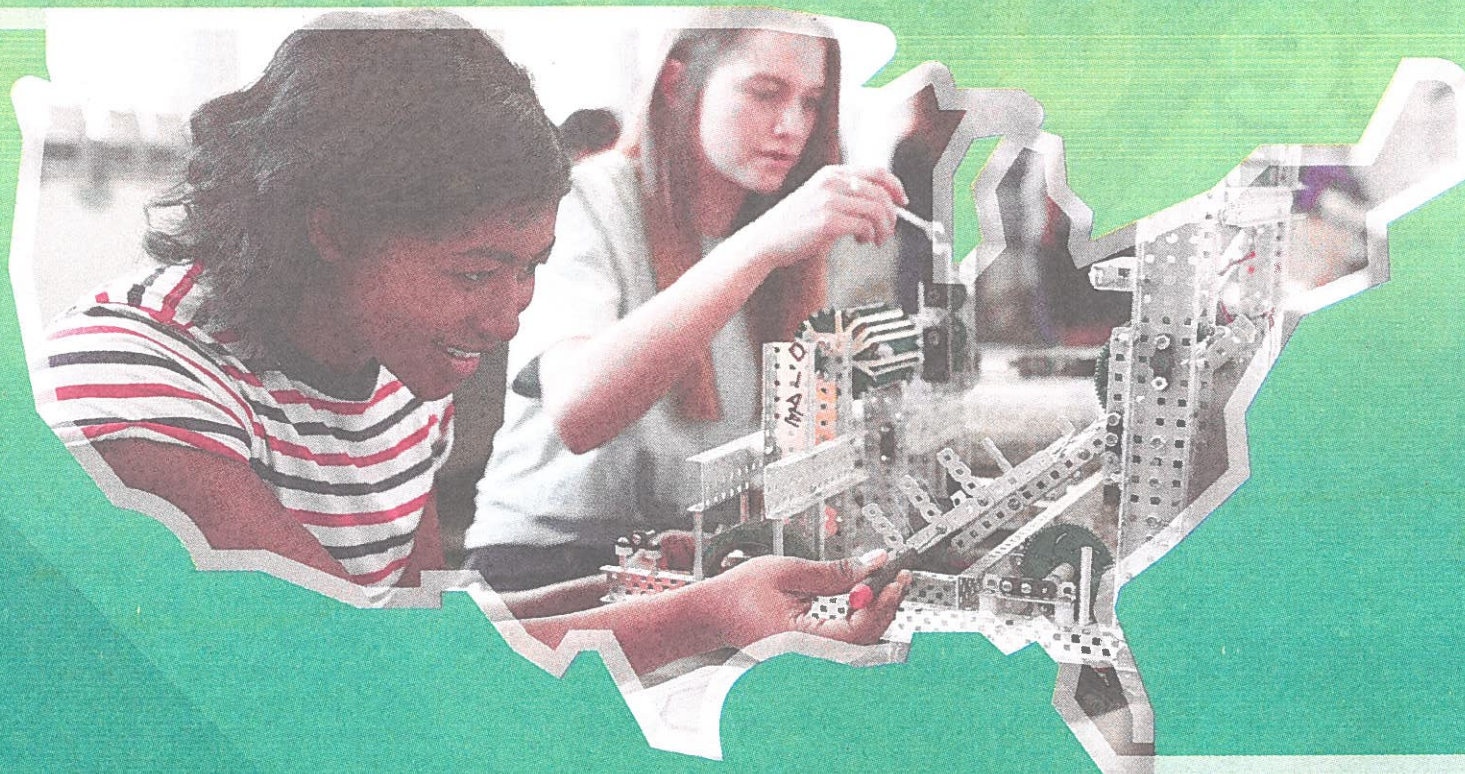
**Kandiss Dowdell**  
**Major:** Botany | **Hometown:** Roberts, MT

***“With the health care services programs being online, the new and highly advanced technology in the Yellowstone Science and Health building will elevate our faculty’s online instruction and provide students with a more personalized experience, even though they’re learning online.”***

**Becky Anglin, DNP.**  
Department Chair of Health Care Services







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*"This new building will provide us the opportunity to help students realize their career goals and will benefit both Montana's economy and the health of its residents."*

**- Carl Castles, Ph.D.**

*Department Chair of Biological and Physical Sciences*



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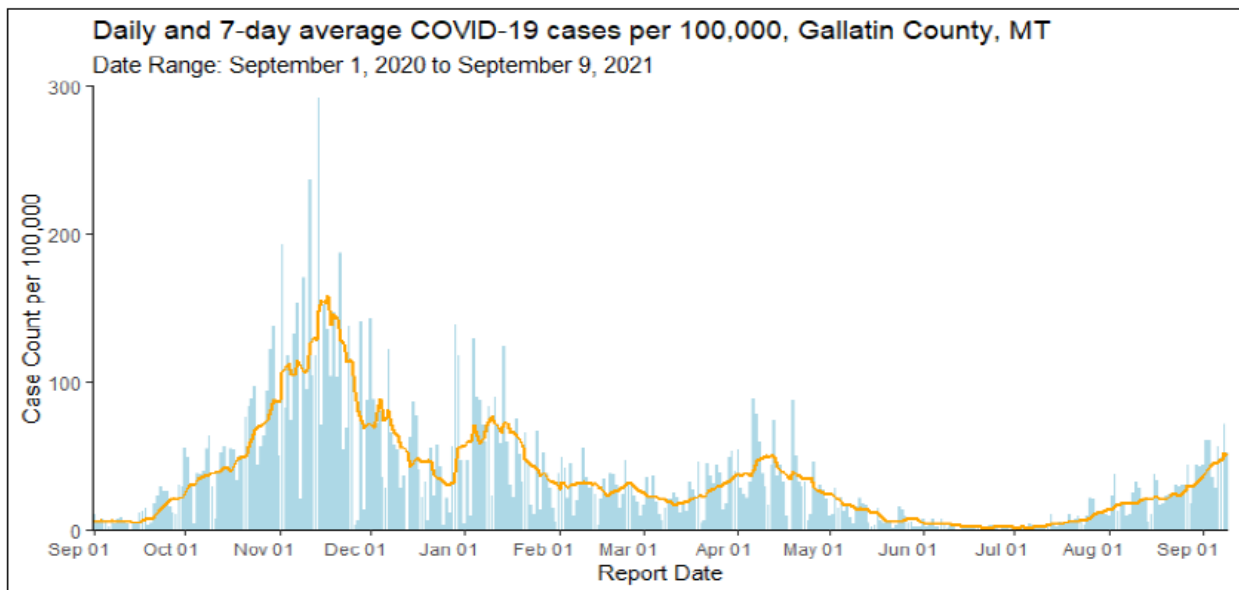
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Dear Board of Regents,

Thank you for your service during this very difficult time. I am writing to urge you to do everything within your power to reverse the surge in COVID-19 cases at MSU Bozeman (and elsewhere in the MUS system).

In the year before COVID-19, first my husband and then my father passed away from chronic illnesses which decimated their lung function and slowly robbed them of the ability to breathe. Both were in hospice care at home, and I took care of each of them, having to administer morphine to suppress the experience of gradual suffocation. I don't have to imagine what it must be like to watch someone you love die of COVID-19. We all must do whatever we can to minimize how many Montanans suffer this kind of death.

And, knowing how much it meant to me for my husband to be able to get the excellent care he needed in the ICU at Bozeman Health, I cannot imagine what it must be like for people whose loved ones are already now being refused the ICU care they desperately need – because too many beds are taken up with COVID patient who never got vaccinated. This is already happening in Montana. Bozeman Health has recently been on “critical care divert” status and per the most recent statistics on the State website ([covid19.mt.gov](https://covid19.mt.gov)), only 12% of hospital beds are available.



Last year at this time the COVID-19 daily incidence rate in Gallatin County was around 6/100,000 people. Now the average is already more than 60/100,000 – and climbing rapidly. As the Montana medical associations joint statement explained on August 19th, “COVID-19 cases continue to increase statewide, at a rate three times faster than the same period in 2020. From July 1, 2021, to August 17, 2021, average daily cases increased by 6-fold and are projected to more than double in the next two weeks based on current infection rates.” The percent positivity rate for COVID-19 tests in Gallatin County increased 26% from 8/31 to 9/7/21, up to 12.6% - meaning we are not doing enough testing and are likely to be “missing a significant number of cases in the community” ([healthygallatin.org](https://healthygallatin.org)). Last fall our County’s daily case count didn’t start to fall until MSU’s fall semester ended. Where do you imagine we are going to be by this December?

Right now, **our classrooms are *not* socially distanced, and *no one is doing classroom contact tracing*** to notify students who - a day earlier - spent an hour sitting next to a student who is now isolated for COVID-19. Unvaccinated students who should be in quarantine as close contacts, are unaware of their exposure and are continuing to attend classes. Only 48% of the 18-29 year olds in our County are fully vaccinated. Approximately half the student body is at serious risk of infection with the current transmission rates in our County, and the other half can still transmit the infection to others, including vulnerable family members, faculty and staff. No one is notifying faculty members when (an unnamed) student in their class tests positive – so we don't know our own exposure, nor whether close contacts are in our classes. This is an aerosol-transmitted virus – while masks and vaccines greatly reduce the risk, we will surely have breakthrough infections, especially among those of us at higher risk. The complete lack of classroom contact tracing enables this.

We know from our own and from nationwide experience and data that COVID-19 spreads faster in college communities. What can we do at MSU Bozeman to keep serious illness and death from COVID-19 in our County at a minimum, and avoid completely overwhelming our health care system? At a minimum:

- We can require masks in all practicable indoor settings, not just classrooms.
- We can assign seating in classrooms and implement vigorous classroom contact tracing, including notifying faculty when there are one or more case(s) in their classroom.
- We can ensure that students in isolation have the complete help and support they need to take care of themselves while ill, to reduce any reluctance to get tested.
- Now that the vaccine is fully approved, we could require it just as hundreds of other universities in this country are doing, and just as we already do across the MUS system for so many other vaccines.

As the Montana Medical Association, the Montana Hospital Association and 16 other Montana professional healthcare organizations emphasized in an August 19, 2021 public statement (attached):

*Montana is currently experiencing increasing local cases, hospitalizations, and deaths. The vast majority of the people who are hospitalized are unvaccinated. With more than 357 million doses administered in the U.S. and just under 1 million administered in Montana, we know the vaccines are a safe tool to prevent severe illness and death from COVID-19.*

Please, listen to the combined voices of the medical and nursing communities of Montana and do everything within your powers to protect all of our health, to ensure that in-person learning can continue, and to maintain our educational and healthcare institutions and our local businesses.

Sincerely,

Margaret Eggers

Research Assistant Professor

MSU Bozeman

---

August 19, 2021



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## MMA Joins Medical and Nursing Community of Montana to Urge Vaccination, Masking as COVID-19 Cases Rise Statewide

[Click here to view the recording from the event:](#)

[United Medical and Nursing Community of Montana Press Call on Need for Urgent Action \(vimeo.com\)](#)



MONTANA – Montana medical and nursing organizations representing thousands of health care practitioners across the state today united to urge Montanans to protect themselves and their communities by getting vaccinated and wearing a mask as COVID-19 cases continue to rise across the state.

“With cases and hospitalizations increasing, we in the medical and nursing community of Montana want you to know that now is the time to act and step up our game collectively in preventing a worsening wave of COVID-19 here in Montana,” said MMA President Pamela V. Cutler, M.D. “We see what’s happening in other portions of the U.S. Our statewide emergency rooms, businesses, and schools depend on each Montanan to

follow the proven prevention methods that we know work – get vaccinated and wear a mask indoors. By working together, we can prepare and slow the spread.”

COVID-19 cases continue to increase statewide, at a rate three times faster than the same period in 2020. From July 1, 2021, to August 17, 2021, average daily cases increased by 6-fold and are projected to more than double in the next two weeks based on current infection rates, according to the Montana Hospital Association.

To help Montanans follow the science with cases rising, the Montana Medical Association, Montana Nurses Association, Montana Academy of Physician Assistants, Montana Hospital Association, Association of Montana Public Health Officers, Montana Academy of Family Physicians, Montana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Montana College of Physicians, Montana Primary Care Association, Montana Pharmacy Association, Montana Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians, Montana Chapter of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Montana Association of Pediatric Psychiatrists, Montana Chapter of the American College of Cardiology, Montana Psychiatric Association, Behavioral Health Alliance of Montana, Montana Orthopedic Society, and the Montana Speech-Language and Hearing Association released the following joint statement:

+\*\*\*\*\*

The medical and nursing community of Montana strongly supports the data and science behind the protection and safety of vaccinations and the benefits of masking in indoor public settings with others as part of a layered mitigation strategy to prevent the spread of COVID-19 across Montana this fall. The data shows the current wave has the potential to overwhelm Montana’s health care systems. The science is clear that masks and vaccinations work. They are our best tools in the fight against COVID-19. Following these recommendations will limit the burden of serious health outcomes in our communities and on our health care providers.

Research shows masks will protect you and work to reduce the spread of viruses. They are much more effective when worn by everyone in our communities. They worked for us last fall and we know they will work again.

The same goes for vaccinations. The higher a percentage of our population that receives them, the more we are all protected. In every Montana community, we have adults and kids with chronic illness, immunodeficiencies, and disabilities. Doctors, nurses, and health care team members follow the science, and we encourage your families to do the same to keep all of us safer.

We understand and empathize with the stress this pandemic has had on all our lives. We want to do what is best for our family and those we love. We want to do what is best for our communities. We as your health care community of Montana have come together to ensure you have the best evidence-based health information available, be clear on the science, and communicate what we can do to help each other.

Montana is currently experiencing increasing local cases, hospitalizations, and deaths. The vast majority of the people who are hospitalized are unvaccinated. With more than 357 million doses administered in the U.S. and just under 1 million administered in Montana, we know the vaccines are a safe tool to prevent severe illness and death from COVID-19.

Given the introduction of the Delta variant and that children under 12 are not yet able to get the COVID-19 vaccine, combined with low teen vaccination rates, masking is especially critical for the prevention of COVID-related outbreaks in our schools. We know the importance of in-person learning, and through prevention measures, we can ensure our kids can stay in the classroom this fall.

We aren't asking Montanans to disrupt their lives. We follow the science and encourage you to do the same. Your actions taken now will help all of us this fall and keep Montana communities open for work, play, and education. Now is the time to step up our game and act appropriately to keep yourself and your neighbors safe, ensure the ongoing availability of local community health care staff, and our emergency rooms and schools remain open without the effects of widespread disease. Together we can level the curve of the current climb.

**From:** [Schwertfeger, Brady](#)  
**To:** [Casanovas, Jasmine](#)  
**Subject:** BOR Meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 15, 2021 10:44:27 AM  
**Attachments:** [Staff Senate Mask-Vaccine-Representation Resolution.docx](#)

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Hi there,

My name is Brady Schwertfeger. I am the Chair of Staff Senate at the University of Montana. Earlier this week, in line with our other shared governance leaders (ASUM and UM Faculty Senate), we passed a resolution regarding COVID-19 mitigation efforts. I have included the resolution here for reference, but in short, it calls for three things:

That-

1. A campus-wide mask mandate be implemented for all indoor and crowded outdoor spaces at the University of Montana until COVID-19 transmission falls beneath the “substantial transmission” category defined by the CDC.
2. Vaccinations be required for all students, faculty, and staff at the University of Montana.
3. Any resolutions passed by Staff Senate or the other shared governance bodies be supported and represented by the University of Montana to the Board of Regents and the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education.

I ask that the contents of this resolution and its passage be included in the record of the Board of Regents meetings.

Thank you, and please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Brady S.  
(406) 243-2983  
UM IT/UMOnline  
Staff Senate Chair/MUSSA Chair  
University of Montana



**From:** [Mark Grimes](#)  
**To:** [Casanovas, Jasmine](#)  
**Subject:** BOR Meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 15, 2021 4:01:07 PM

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Dear Board of Regents

To protect the students, faculty, and staff of Montana university system from the clear and present danger of an evolving virus that has already killed more than 600,000 Americans, and currently hospitalizing 377 and killing 4 Montanans per day, the Board of Regents (BOR) should consider mandating COVID-19 vaccinations. This should be coupled with a communication strategy that is sensitive to some people's tendency to react as if this threatens their identity or free will, to get the most people on board with protecting all Montanans. The freedom of people who choose not to be vaccinated does not take precedent over the freedom of everyone else. Requiring vaccination, and COVID-19 testing twice a week for unvaccinated people, is the only path to restoring the liberty to work and the freedom to attend school safely.

As of Sept. 15, COVID-19 cases in Montana are dramatically rising (8th fastest of all states) and breaking records, which is largely driven by the fact that only 47% of Montana residents are fully vaccinated. Almost all cases in Montana now are in unvaccinated people. Unvaccinated people are more than ten times as likely as vaccinated people to be hospitalized or die from COVID-19.

While masks help curb the spread of this disease, vaccines are what will control it.

Arguments for vaccine mandates to protect community health rest on a firm foundation of science and robust legal precedent that goes back to the era of smallpox. For comparison, laws that penalize drunk driving are meant to protect not only drivers, but the community at large. Vaccine mandates are like drunk driving laws in that they protect the community from infection.

Vaccines also protect the community by limiting the evolution of the SARS-CoV2 virus that causes COVID-19. The more infectious delta variant has increased hospitalizations and deaths across the world. The more the virus replicates in people, the greater chance that a new mutant will arise that is even worse than the deadly delta variant, even one that may evade vaccine protection. Unvaccinated people thus put the entire human population at risk, not just themselves.

Laws like Montana's HB-702 that block vaccine requirements are contrary to the best science and the best public-health advice. Importantly, HB-702 does not supersede Montana Code Title 20, Chapter 5, or MUS Policy 301: the Montana university system or individual campuses have authority to set vaccination requirements independently.

Arguments against vaccine mandates have a weak foundation. Anti-vaccine disinformation, typically based on unfounded conspiracy theories or obfuscating bothsidesism, has recently shifted to arguments about personal privacy, religion, and freedom, which are not equitable reasons for exemption to COVID-19 vaccination. In

fact there are very few, if any, definitive medical exemptions.

Montana's policymakers should rethink their approach to vaccine mandates, which will protect human life, restore the economy, and prevent the Montana university system from closing down again. Fueling vaccine hesitancy is bad political strategy because it kills voters and kills jobs.

The Montana BOR should not worry too much about a disinformation-based political stance that will not stand the test of time. At this point more than a thousand colleges and universities require COVID-19 vaccinations or twice weekly testing for students, staff, and faculty. Montana universities should join them.

Best regards,

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Mark Grimes  
Division of Biological Sciences  
University of Montana  
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Missoula, Montana 59812-4824  
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Fax Number: (406) 243-4184  
E-mail: [Mark.Grimes@mso.umt.edu](mailto:Mark.Grimes@mso.umt.edu)  
[Lab website](#)

**From:** [Brody, Michael](#)  
**To:** [Casanovas, Jasmine](#)  
**Cc:** [Faculty Senate](#); [Bird, Elizabeth Ann](#)  
**Subject:** BOR Public Comment 9.15.21  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 15, 2021 7:29:29 AM

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I believe that if BOR doesn't assert its constitutional responsibility to govern the MUS to require vaccines, then the **federal government will require it anyway because MUS (at least MSU and really probably all of MUS) holds federal contracts**, which from the wording in the quote below suggests it includes all the grants and other types of contracts that we have, and that being a federal contractor would mean a requirement for all employees (which includes a lot of students) to get vaccinated. I believe this argument can help the BOR make an intelligent and humane decision regarding vaccines and masks on the MUS campuses protecting the health, safety, and well-being of our community.

One of the Presidents executive orders, [issued Thursday](#) for government contractors, calls for the new requirement regarding vaccines to be in place for contracts entered into on or after Oct. 15. It will apply to any workplace locations "in which an individual is working on or in connection with a Federal Government contract or contract-like instrument."

[https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-09-09/biden-to-sign-order-requiring-vaccines-for-federal-workers?utm\\_source=url\\_link](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-09-09/biden-to-sign-order-requiring-vaccines-for-federal-workers?utm_source=url_link)

Respectfully, Michael Brody

**From:** [Oneill, Lauren](#)  
**To:** [Casanovas, Jasmine](#)  
**Subject:** BOR Public Comment 9/15  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 15, 2021 11:27:36 AM

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Hi Jasmine,

My name is Lauren, and I'm a co-author for the ASUM Resolution being discussed via public comment today at 3:45p. Unfortunately, I am not able to make it to Butte today to give comment in person due to my course schedule, but would appreciate the opportunity to participate. Is there an appropriate Zoom link to use in order to do so? I was unable to find that information online, and the only information provided is to call in, but I cannot find the Meeting ID required for that. Thank you in advance for your assistance on this matter.

Best,

**LAUREN O'NEILL** (she/her)

JURIS DOCTOR CANDIDATE, CLASS OF 2023

ALEXANDER BLEWETT III SCHOOL OF LAW

President, American Constitution Society

Core Collective, National Lawyers Guild

Staff, Montana Law Review

(619) 961-3286 | [lauren1.oneill@umontana.edu](mailto:lauren1.oneill@umontana.edu)

**From:** [McCalla, Stephanie](#)  
**To:** [Casanovas, Jasmine](#)  
**Subject:** BoR public comment, Sep 15, 2021 meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 14, 2021 9:50:20 PM

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Dear Jasmine,

Below is my public comment for the Sep 15, 2021 Board of Regents meeting.

Best wishes,  
Stephanie

To the Board of Regents.

As faculty at Montana State University, I would first like to thank you for taking the time to read and consider our input during your meetings. I am writing concerning COVID-19 safety precautions in our University. As COVID-19 cases continue to climb and our hospitals fill with COVID patients, it is important to take all necessary precautions to prevent illness, disruption of our educational process, and potential morbidity and mortality both at the University and in the community. Many of my colleagues or their cohabitating family members have preexisting conditions that put them at additional risk for serious COVID complications regardless of their vaccination status. I am teaching to a full classroom in person, but my children are too young to get vaccinated and my pregnancy has likely impacted my immune system. During this pandemic, I have additionally seen the toll that COVID infections place on our students. I have had students unable to complete courses due to time lost to battling COVID, as well as students struggling with long term COVID side effects. To prevent potential tragedy or serious disruption to our students' educational plans, I implore the Board to consider both a vaccine and a mask mandate.

Thank you,  
Stephanie McCalla

Dr. Stephanie McCalla  
she/her/hers  
Associate Professor  
Montana State University  
Chemical & Biological Engineering  
PO Box 173920  
Bozeman, MT 59717-3920  
Phone: (406)-994-2286  
Office: 255 Chemistry and Biochemistry Building

**From:** [Sienna B](#)  
**To:** [Casanovas, Jasmine](#)  
**Subject:** Help my community  
**Date:** Thursday, September 16, 2021 10:10:38 PM

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Hello,

I would like to respond to the request for public comment. My sister is an University of Montana employee and she is immune compromised. I would like to ask that the COVID-19 vaccines be included in required vaccination. I would also ask that masks be required.

This is a public health matter is of critical importance to our safety and health.

Thank you

Sienna Belcourt

**From:** [Roland Hatzenpichler](#)  
**To:** [Casanovas, Jasmine](#)  
**Subject:** Input on BoR meetings on mask and vaccine mandates  
**Date:** Saturday, September 11, 2021 5:37:57 PM

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Dear Board of Regents,

It is your moral duty to protect all students and employees of the MUS. I strongly urge you to reconsider your decision on requiring vaccine and mask mandates on MUS campuses and as soon as possible implement asymptomatic screening for Covid-19 amongst students and faculty at all large MUS campuses.

As a researcher with advanced training (Ms and PhD) in biochemistry, molecular biology, molecular microbiology, and microbial ecology and as an instructor in biochemistry and molecular biology at MSU Bozeman, I strongly urge you to take the threat by Covid-19 to the employees of the MUS and our students seriously. Any delay in implementing strict mask and vaccine mandates will lead to unnecessary deaths, hospitalizations, and lost work hours. While I understand that some board members might be reluctant to enact such rules because they fear pushbacks from certain politicians, I ask you: what is the alternative? To drag this situation on for longer, watching more and more of our friends and neighbors suffer, and having to live with Covid as a constant threat for years to come? And all just because a loud but small group of conspiracy theorists and anti-vaxxers might protest when it's in fact their duty to protect the community and our state? No. We cannot wait; looking at the rise of case numbers and use of ICU beds across the state, it's clear you have to **act now!**

The most effective ways to contain the spread of the virus and protect students and MSU employees as well as the people of MT are:

- **an immediate mask mandate in all indoor spaces on MSU campuses.** Some campuses in our university system have a mask requirement in instructional spaces. Unfortunately, such a measure does little to contain the spread of an airborne virus. The moment a student steps out of a classroom (e.g., going into the hallway, using a bathroom, visiting the cafeteria), they can take their mask off. Only a mask mandate for all campus personnel, employee or student, in all indoor spaces will help to substantially contain the virus. This measure should be implemented immediately. After a single warning, any non-compliant student or employee should be reported to the dean of students or their supervisor. The next step would be to put that student on academic probation and put the employee on unpaid leave.

- **as soon as logistically possible, impose a vaccine mandate for all** employees or students if they want to be physically present on campus; this vaccine mandate should apply to anyone who wants to be physically present at any time in dorms, instructional spaces, research buildings, and offices. MUS has successfully conducted several vaccine drives and the vaccine is easily available for every person over 18 years without costs. **At the very least, a vaccine mandate should be in place for the start of the spring 2022 semester.**

- **as soon as logistically possible, implement asymptomatic screening** for Covid-19 on at least the largest MUS campuses (Bozeman, Billings, Helena). I can only speak for MSU Bozeman, where I am faculty; our campus clearly has the scientific expertise, all necessary equipment, and with a few weeks preparation to stock up on lab consumables is logistically prepared to screen thousands of students and employees every week. I believe that if provided with financial support and a few weeks of preparation time, researchers could screen thousands of students each week at an estimated cost (estimated by the faculty who would run the screens) of ~\$1.8M per semester. Screening this many people is the most effective way to keep the campus running even if a vaccine mandate could not be implemented for political reasons. By screening asymptomatic people in regular intervals, we could quickly identify infected people and quarantine them before they could infect others.

With my best regards, Roland Hatzenpichler

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Roland Hatzenpichler, PhD (he/him/his)  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry  
Department of Microbiology and Cell Biology  
Center for Biofilm Engineering

Thermal Biology Institute  
Montana State University, Bozeman  
[www.environmental-microbiology.com](http://www.environmental-microbiology.com)



**From:** [Joseph D. Seymour](#)  
**To:** [Casanovas, Jasmine](#)  
**Subject:** MUS COVID Vaccinations  
**Date:** Monday, September 13, 2021 3:09:17 PM

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I am writing in public comment to the MSU BOR meeting regarding requiring vaccines in the MUS system. I encourage the Board to use their Constitutional powers regarding governance of the University to require COVID vaccines just as the MUS requires MMR and other vaccinations. Do not let the scientific ignorance and abdication of civic duty of public officials such as Governor Gianforte and AG Knudsen, who put politics before public health and safety, deter you from doing what is right. Require all students and staff of the MUS to be vaccinated for COVID. Joe Seymour Ph.D. Chem. Eng. 922 W. Curtiss St. Bozeman MT 59715. 406 556 1179

**From:** [McKay, Kimber](#)  
**To:** [Regent Loren Bough](#); [Regent Todd Buchanan](#); [Regent Joyce Dombrowski](#); [Regent Casey Lozar](#); [Regent Bob Nystuen](#); [Regent Brianne Rogers](#); [Regent Amy Sexton](#); [Christian, Clayton](#)  
**Cc:** [Tessman, Brock](#); [Mokwa, Robert](#); [Humphrey, Reed](#); [Casanovas, Jasmine](#); [Bell, Jennifer](#); [Foos, Camie L](#); [musfar@sympa.montana.edu](mailto:musfar@sympa.montana.edu); [Cassens, Michael D](#); [Mayer, Michael S](#); [Rinfret, Sara](#); [Severson, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** My comments for today's public comment period, which was moved up in the timeline.  
**Date:** Thursday, September 16, 2021 12:27:07 PM

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Dear Colleagues,

I meant to share these remarks during public comment today, but had planned for this to occur at noon and was unaware until just now that you were ahead of schedule.

Please accept these for the record, I hope this is OK to cc to all, and that this is not seen as an impertinence:

Thank you Chair Lozar, Commissioner Christian and Regents. My name is Kimber McKay. I appreciate everything you are doing individually and collectively to shepherd the MUS through these challenging times.

I'm a professor at UM's School of Public and Community Health Sciences, and UM's Faculty Senate Chair. My expertise is in global and rural health, which is an area I have worked in for the past 25 years, in many countries. My specific interest is in the diffusion of health innovations across communities, including new health behaviors and new health technologies, such as a new vaccine. In the communities where I work in Nepal and Uganda, where people still routinely suffer and die from vaccine-preventable disease (other than COVID but now also COVID), I have witnessed firsthand the desperation that accompanies unmet need for vaccines. I never thought we would witness the opposite phenomenon here in this country, where people are dying from a disease despite the availability of a proven vaccine against it, but here we are.

Last week UM's Faculty Senate passed a resolution asking for stronger COVID-19 risk mitigation efforts to be enforced on our campus, including universal indoor face covering use, and a vaccine mandate. I shared this with you previously and will not read it today.

Instead, today, I would like to further encourage you, as members of the BOR, to act for the MUS as a whole, to join the hundreds of other campuses across the US, by adding the COVID-19 vaccine to the list of MUS-required vaccines. The list of other campuses that have done so includes many public institutions, including in purple and even some red states (including the public university systems in MN, LA, IN, MI, NV, NM, NC, VA, and WA, along with many more). An article in University Business from Sept 8, 2021 lists these campuses. I link it [here](#) for your interest.

Pushing the decision to require vaccines out to the campus leaders, to act in concert with their local health departments is not best practice, for the public health and public safety of the state. A piecemeal approach is not supported by the science on vaccines or infectious disease control procedures, and I think we are all aware of the diminished authority of local health departments since the last legislative session. For students and families, it will be confusing and harder to accept a

campus-specific mandate, since all campuses are in areas of 'high transmission' per the CDC, and this approach is thusly more likely to open individual campuses up for challenges and non-compliance. **It will split instead of unite the MUS.**

Part of our society's unspoken social contract involves complying with public health measures that protect the health and well-being of our citizens and the output of our individual and collective labor (our economy). One of the most important of these measures is vaccines, and the agreed checkpoints for ensuring that the vast majority of our population is vaccinated against threats to our well-being and economic power are school settings, from K through post-secondary. The reason for this is that these settings are experienced by the vast majority of our population, and because they place us in congregate gatherings. **Schools K through post-secondary were therefore recognized long ago as effective sites for enacting the social contract we engage in as vaccinated citizens protecting ourselves, one another, and our livings from the disruptions caused by infectious disease.** The BOR has an ethical duty to recognize this history and to continue to participate in this practice. Further, Montana's institutions of higher education have an important place in our society as leaders in the scientific and public policy realms. These realms help organize us as a society, and guide us to the best practices that ensure our society may persist and thrive. The BOR should take its rightful place in leading the MUS and our state forward in best practice regarding controlling the impact of this terrible disease in our community, by requiring this vaccine just as it requires vaccines against other diseases that are highly infectious, lethal, and disruptive to our society.

The data show that cases not only continue to tick up at an increasing rate in MT, but that the volume of patients is exceeding hospital and clinic capacity in most large population centers in our state. Saint Patrick Hospital in Missoula is now treating arrivals to the ER by triaging patients in the ambulance bay, since capacity within the unit is exceeded, joining many other facilities around the state in being unable to meet demand for care in a normal fashion. Delta has proven itself to be more infectious and more virulent to our state's population than the original strain. As of today, we have more active cases than at the first peak of the pandemic in November 2020. The collective impact of these things threatens our state economy and the functioning of our campuses, as it is inevitable that the # of students, faculty, and staff who will need to quarantine will rise as time passes. ASUM's President, Noah Durnell, along with many other students, have made it clear that the hybrid and asynchronous options that are necessitated by the Q&I realities of COVID-19 infections are despised by most students, and that they erode the morale of a class and the likelihood that well students will even bother continue to attend in person. Simply put, this disrupts the ability of our campus to fulfill its mission. **The simplest, cheapest and most effective cure for this problem is for our student body to take advantage of the highly effective vaccines available against COVID-19.** Having most of our student body vaccinated will dramatically increase the likelihood that our classes, labs, research, sports, clubs and other campus activities will be able to carry on as regularly as possible during this academic year. The positive impacts of this will be felt in real time, and are likely to will pay dividends into the future. We all want to reduce further disruptions to our mission, and to avoid economic effects upon our campuses from which it will be difficult to recover.

Thank you.

**Kimber Haddix McKay**

Professor, School of Public and Community Health Sciences  
Director, Global Public Health

**University of Montana**

**Missoula, MT 59812**

**Website:** [Kimber Haddix McKay](#)

[The University of Montana](#)



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**From:** McKay, Kimber

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 15, 2021 3:02 PM

**To:** Casanovas, Jasmine <[jcasanovas@montana.edu](mailto:jcasanovas@montana.edu)>

**Subject:** RE: UM Faculty Senate Resolution

Thank you, Jasmine. I have prepared a separate comment speaking as Chair of the Faculty Senate here at UM Missoula – I was thinking I'd better send that by email in case the public comment is so busy that there isn't time for everyone – do you have any advice?

**Kimber Haddix McKay**

Professor, School of Public and Community Health Sciences  
Director, Global Public Health

**University of Montana**

**Missoula, MT 59812**

**Website:** [Kimber Haddix McKay](#)

[The University of Montana](#)



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**From:** Casanovas, Jasmine <[jcasanovas@montana.edu](mailto:jcasanovas@montana.edu)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 15, 2021 2:59 PM

**To:** McKay, Kimber <[Kimber.McKay@mso.umt.edu](mailto:Kimber.McKay@mso.umt.edu)>

**Subject:** RE: UM Faculty Senate Resolution

Dear Kimber,

Your comment has been received. Most appreciated.

Jasmine Casanovas

Executive Assistant to the Commissioner of Higher Education

Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education | Montana University System

[icasanovas@montana.edu](mailto:icasanovas@montana.edu) | 406.449.9127  
[www.mus.edu](http://www.mus.edu) | [MUSings Newsletter](#) | [ApplyMontana](#)

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**From:** McKay, Kimber <[Kimber.McKay@mso.umt.edu](mailto:Kimber.McKay@mso.umt.edu)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 14, 2021 2:33 PM  
**To:** Regent Loren Bough <[RegentBough@montana.edu](mailto:RegentBough@montana.edu)>; Regent Todd Buchanan <[RegentBuchanan@montana.edu](mailto:RegentBuchanan@montana.edu)>; Regent Joyce Dombrowski <[RegentDombrowski@montana.edu](mailto:RegentDombrowski@montana.edu)>; Regent Casey Lozar <[RegentLozar@montana.edu](mailto:RegentLozar@montana.edu)>; Regent Bob Nystuen <[regentnystuen@montana.edu](mailto:regentnystuen@montana.edu)>; Regent Brianne Rogers <[RegentRogers@montana.edu](mailto:RegentRogers@montana.edu)>; Regent Amy Sexton <[RegentSexton@montana.edu](mailto:RegentSexton@montana.edu)>; Christian, Clayton <[cchristian@montana.edu](mailto:cchristian@montana.edu)>  
**Cc:** Tessman, Brock <[btessman@montana.edu](mailto:btessman@montana.edu)>; Mokwa, Robert <[mokwa@montana.edu](mailto:mokwa@montana.edu)>; Humphrey, Reed <[reed.humphrey@mso.umt.edu](mailto:reed.humphrey@mso.umt.edu)>; Casanovas, Jasmine <[icasanovas@montana.edu](mailto:icasanovas@montana.edu)>; Bell, Jennifer <[jennifer.bell@mso.umt.edu](mailto:jennifer.bell@mso.umt.edu)>; Foos, Camie L <[camie.foos@mso.umt.edu](mailto:camie.foos@mso.umt.edu)>; Watson, Bradford <[bradford.watson@montana.edu](mailto:bradford.watson@montana.edu)>  
**Subject:** UM Faculty Senate Resolution

Dear Commissioner Christian, Regents, and other colleagues,

On behalf of the UM Faculty Senate, and in anticipation of the meetings this week, I wanted to share the resolution regarding COVID-19 risk mitigation efforts on our campus, which was passed by the Senators last week (38 for, 2 against, 2 abstaining). A link to the resolution is [here](#). The resolution was authored by colleagues in the College of Forestry and Conservation, and over 120 faculty from across the university signed a petition asking for it to be brought to the Senate.

Thank you for all of the work you are doing to safeguard the MUS during these challenging times. It is much appreciated. I look forward to seeing some of you at the virtual breakfast tomorrow, and as much as I can during the meetings. Our Chair-elect, Dr. Jenn Bell and I will be attending virtually as we are not on the agenda.

Respectfully,

Kimber

**Kimber Haddix McKay**

Professor, School of Public and Community Health Sciences

Director, Global Public Health

Faculty Senate Chair 2021-2022

**University of Montana**  
**Missoula, MT 59812**  
**Website:** [Kimber Haddix McKay](#)



**From:** [Ryan, Kathleen](#)  
**To:** [Casanovas, Jasmine](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for BOR meeting on September 15  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 14, 2021 1:01:04 PM

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Dear Board of Regents,

MSU Bozeman began the fall semester with a mask recommendation not a requirement, since our administration is forced to work within the politics driving debates about masks and vaccines. Within days it became clear to our administration that without a mask requirement most students wouldn't voluntarily wear masks to protect university employees or their fellow students, or the wider community (including the strain on the hospital increased cases creates).

Our requirement now is that people wear masks in instructional spaces, which means that places like offices, the library, and the bookstore have only some people choosing to wear masks to protect themselves and others. In other words, the delta variant of COVID-19 is spreading on our campus quite readily because the mask requirement is fairly limited and this variant is quite contagious. For instance, last week I had 5 students absent in a class of 20 because they were staying home with COVID-19 symptoms or awaiting test results for themselves or roommates. A walk down the hallway in Wilson shows some students not wearing masks in their classes. We have no quarantine dorm available for students this year. Did you know that at this time last year in Bozeman 145 patients were hospitalized with COVID-19 and yesterday there were 351? One of my students works in the hospital, and he reported that 25+% of the patients in the hospital are COVID-19 positive. He hasn't been in class lately because he's worried about transmitting the virus to his classmates. We need the Board of Regents to implement a mask requirement for indoor spaces on our campus to protect our students, employees, and community.

A mask requirement is the best tool available for ensuring that campus communities remain safe and that classes do not have to move to remote instruction until and unless we can reach a fully immunized campus. I hope you can see from my brief email that masks are not fully successful because of the limits on the requirement and individual use is inconsistently required and practiced across indoor spaces and heavily populated outdoor spaces. It's time for MSU, and the MUS system as a whole, to join over 600 colleges and universities in requiring the COVID-19 vaccine for students and employees. Certainly, as a research institution, it is absurd for MSU to lag behind in acknowledging and acting on the scientific evidence that shows the success of the now fully FDA approved Pfizer vaccine as well as the practice of using masks indoors as a tool for safety. We protect our students, employees, and our communities better vaccinated. Governor Gianforte approves of vaccinations, but we need you to make the vaccine mandatory. We need our Board of Regents to step up in this public health emergency.

I recommend the MUS system implement a required vaccination plan to get students and employees fully vaccinated for the Spring 2022 semester. We cannot afford to delay this important public health care action. In the meantime we need a mask requirement for all indoor spaces. The health of the university and the health of the students, faculty and our local communities depends on it. We need to treat this pandemic like the public health emergency that it is.

Sincerely,

Kate Ryan

Kathleen J. Ryan  
Associate Professor of Rhetoric and Writing  
English Department  
Montana State University



**From:** [edward dratz](#)  
**To:** [Casanovas, Jasmine](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for BOR: People who have tested positive for Covid need not be vaccinated  
**Date:** Monday, September 20, 2021 3:57:26 PM

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I am a representative to the MSU Faculty Senate, but I had to leave the last meeting a bit early, before the Covid Resolution was finalized, due to an unavoidable conflict. There is a very important point that was not included in the FS resolution that was read to BOR, as Public Comment.

An important point that is not accommodated by the resolution is: **people who have tested positive**

**for Covid appear to have stronger immunity than fully vaccinated people, who have not tested positive.**

It is difficult to get reliable data, but a large study from Israel, that was recently published, found that

people who had been infected had about ten times lower rates of reinfection than people who were fully immunized. There are other studies in agreement. So it seems that a sentence should be added something like: **Second, people who have tested positive for Covid need not be vaccinated.**

CDC does not recommend this, but they have not revised their relevant recommendations since March 17, 2021--so they have not considered a lot of more recently available data.

Is there any other manner that this should be communicated to be included in Public Comment?

Edward A. Dratz, PhD

Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry

Montana State University Bozeman

406-579-3399

**From:** [Eggers, Margaret](#)  
**To:** [Casanovas, Jasmine](#)  
**Subject:** public comment for upcoming Board of Regents meeting  
**Date:** Monday, September 13, 2021 10:37:38 PM  
**Attachments:** [Board of Regents Public Comment Sept 2021.docx](#)

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Dear Dr. Casanovas,

Please find attached my public comment regarding masks and vaccines, for this week's Board of Regents meeting. Thank you for this opportunity to comment, and for all that you do on behalf of our students, staff and faculty.

Best  
Margaret Eggers

MSU Bozeman

**From:** [Davis, Lisa](#)  
**To:** [Casanovas, Jasmine](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment on vaccines and masks  
**Date:** Saturday, September 11, 2021 4:52:03 PM

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Dear BOR,

For the health of the students, faculty, staff and surrounding communities, I urge you to consider requiring vaccination (those approved by CDC) on all MUS campuses. I realize that this is a controversial move; however, lives are at stake in this state as we move through this academic year. In addition, requiring masks in all indoor spaces on campus is a simple and less intrusive way to slow the spread of the coronavirus. These measures are needed on our campuses, and I hope you will consider your responsibilities when deliberating such decisions.

Best Regards,  
Lisa Davis

Lisa Davis  
Professor of Mathematics  
Chair of Graduate Program Committee  
Department of Mathematical Sciences  
Montana State University  
Bozeman, MT  
lisa.davis@montana.edu  
2-192 Wilson Hall  
Phone: 406-994-5347

**From:** [Samuels, Scott](#)  
**To:** [Casanovas, Jasmine](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment  
**Date:** Thursday, September 16, 2021 1:49:34 PM

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I support taking a prudent and scientific approach toward mitigating the COVID-19 pandemic on our campuses as recommended by public health experts and agencies including the CDC. This includes mandating masking inside (not just classrooms), vaccination, and social distancing. We are watching as our great state is seeing record numbers of COVID-19 cases and deaths, including those of college age. Please protect Montanans and all students.

Regards,  
Scott

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D. Scott Samuels, Professor  
Division of Biological Sciences  
University of Montana  
32 Campus Dr  
Missoula MT 59812-4824

Phone 406-243-6145  
Fax 406-243-4184

<http://hs.umt.edu/dbs/people/default.php?s=Samuels>

Mr. Chair and members of the Board,

My name is Noah Durnell, I represent the University of Montana student body as President of the Associated Students of the University of Montana. There is no conversation more pressing, or with more student support behind it right now, than asking the Board of Regents to offer more robust authorizations for COVID-19 mitigation and vaccination on college campuses.

On Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, ASUM passed SB7-Resolution Establishing ASUM's Demands Regarding COVID-19 Vaccine Mandates. This resolution was well researched and written by myself and four other prominent student leaders who I want to acknowledge for the record; Senators Tor Gudmundsson, Melissa Glueckart, and Emma Kiefer, and Student-At-Large, Lauren O'Neill. The resolution passed by a 16-2-0 vote.

Students acknowledge that we can no longer be idly rooted in optimism when reality says there is no waiting this virus out. That until a much larger portion of our communities are vaccinated, COVID-19 will continue to mutate, spread, and kill Montanans, Missoulians, University staff, faculty members, and my fellow friends and students. The Resolution also acknowledges the complexity of this situation. The legislature continuously challenged your authority to make decisions for college campuses that you have always been legally empowered to make, such as mandating vaccines for students. Yet another example of this is HB102. I was one of many Montanans around the state asking you to challenge this bill in court, and after listening to your constituents then, you immediately responded by pursuing litigation, and preliminary injunction was granted. The circumstances leaders in higher education like you have been put under are frustrating, and demoralizing, but ASUM asks that you stay firm in following the same precedent you have established with prior bills this session. Do what is morally imperative for the health of the over 40,000 students that the members in this room are collectively charged to protect.

I want to note that every branch of shared governance at UM is united on this front, so I ask that at the very least you work with our administration to execute solutions oriented towards our demands.

You all witnessed one of the first COVID-19 infections in the state of Montana at the March 2020 BOR meeting. I'm confident y'all understand, truly, that you have the authority to help see the last COVID-19 case in Montana.

ASUM offers our support in carrying out any efforts to mandate COVID-19 vaccines on college campuses, and to implement stronger masking requirements as transmission remains above the substantial category. Thank you for your time.

- Noah Durnell
- President of the Associated Students of the University of Montana

1                               **The Associated Students of the University of Montana**  
2                               **Resolution Establishing ASUM’s Demands Regarding COVID-19 Vaccine Requirement**  
3   **August 31, 2021**  
4   **SB7-21/22**

5                               **Authored by: Noah Durnell, ASUM President; Mary Melissa Glueckert, ASUM Senator;**  
6                               **Tor Gudmundsson, ASUM Senator; Emma Kiefer, ASUM Senator; Lauren O’Neill,**  
7   **Student-At-Large;**

8  
9       Whereas, The COVID-19 virus has been known to be present in the state of Montana since  
10       March 11, 2020<sup>1</sup>;

11  
12       Whereas, The COVID-19 pandemic directly and negatively impacts the safety and academic  
13       success of students at the University of Montana (UM);

14  
15       Whereas, The Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) advocates for the  
16       general welfare of all students at UM<sup>2</sup>;

17  
18       Whereas, The COVID-19 pandemic is an unprecedented threat to the public health and safety of  
19       the UM campus;

20  
21       Whereas, The current data shows that Missoula County has 734 active cases (as of 9/8/2021)<sup>3</sup>;

22  
23       Whereas, The current data shows that Missoula County has 82 new confirmed cases (as of  
24       9/8/2021)<sup>4</sup>;

25  
26       Whereas, Based on this number Missoula County has remained at what is referred to as the  
27       “Tipping Point” in terms of risk level (25+ cases per 100,000 people) for almost the entire month  
28       of August 2021 until now<sup>5</sup>;

29  
30       Whereas, Missoula County has an average of 54 new cases daily per 100,000 people in the past 7  
31       days<sup>6</sup>;

32  
33       Whereas, COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective, and free<sup>7</sup>;

34  
35       Whereas, COVID-19 vaccines are widely available on campus and in the Missoula community  
36       through the Curry Health Center, the Missoula City-County Health Department Immunization

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/us/montana-covid-cases.html>

<sup>2</sup> ASUM Constitution Article 2, Section 1

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.missoulainfo.com/copy-of-data-dashboard>

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html>

37 Clinic, CVS Pharmacy, Walgreen’s Pharmacy, OSCO Pharmacy, and Granite Pharmacy, among  
38 others<sup>8</sup>;

39  
40 Whereas, There are no existing mandates requiring students to be vaccinated against COVID-19  
41 to attend UM;

42  
43 Whereas, The 67<sup>th</sup> Montana State Legislature passed House Bill (HB) 702<sup>9</sup>;

44  
45 Whereas, HB 702 could create legislative restrictions to enacting a COVID-19 vaccine mandate  
46 for students, faculty, and staff at UM;

47  
48 Whereas, Section 1(2)(a) of HB 702 provides:

49  
50 *... it is an unlawful discriminatory practice for: (a) a person or a governmental entity to*  
51 *refuse, withhold from, or deny to a person any local or state services, goods, facilities,*  
52 *advantages, privileges, licensing, educational opportunities, health care access, or*  
53 *employment opportunities based on the person's vaccination status or whether the person*  
54 *has an immunity passport* <sup>10</sup>;

55  
56 Whereas, HB 702 recognizes exemptions to Section 1(2)(a) in Section 2. (“Exemption”):

57  
58 *A licensed nursing home, long-term care facility, or assisted living facility is exempt from*  
59 *compliance with [section1] during any period of time that compliance with [section1]*  
60 *would result in a violation of regulations or guidance issued by the centers for Medicare*  
61 *and Medicaid Services of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention*<sup>11</sup>;

62  
63 Whereas, HB 702 Section 2 (“Exemptions”) emphasizes the importance of adhering to COVID-  
64 19 vaccine guidance issued by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC);

65  
66 Whereas, Current CDC guidance advises individuals to get fully vaccinated against COVID-19  
67 as soon as possible without exemption<sup>12</sup>;

68  
69 Whereas, The Montana Code Annotated (Mont. Code Ann.) § 20-5-403(1) (“Immunization  
70 Required – Release and Acceptance of Immunization Records”) outlines the governing authority  
71 of postsecondary educational institutions to deny any person the privilege of attending as a pupil,  
72 unless the person has been immunized against varicella, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus,  
73 poliomyelitis, rubella, mumps, and measles in the manner and with immunizing agents approved  
74 by the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)<sup>13</sup>;

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.vaccines.gov/results/?zipcode=59801&medications=779bfe52-0dd8-4023-a183-457eb100fcc,a84fb9ed-deb4-461c-b785-e17c782ef88b,784db609-dc1f-45a5-bad6-8db02e79d44f&radius=25&appointments=true>; <https://covid19.missoula.co/get-vaccinated/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://leg.mt.gov/bills/2021/billpdf/HB0702.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> <https://leg.mt.gov/bills/2021/billpdf/HB0702.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> <https://leg.mt.gov/bills/2021/billpdf/HB0702.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/vaccine-benefits.html>

<sup>13</sup> [https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title\\_0200/chapter\\_0050/part\\_0040/section\\_0030/0200-0050-0040-0030.html](https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title_0200/chapter_0050/part_0040/section_0030/0200-0050-0040-0030.html)



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Whereas, The Montana Code Annotated § 20-5-403(2)(b) (“Immunization Required – Release and Acceptance of Immunization Records”) outlines the governing authority of postsecondary educational institutions to impose immunization requirements as a condition of attendance that are more stringent than those required by Mont. Code Ann. § 20-5-403(1)<sup>14</sup>;

Whereas, The 67<sup>th</sup> Montana State Legislature created an implicit exemption in HB 702 Section 2 to HB 702 Section 1 for schools pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 20-5-4 (“Education; Pupils; Health”);

Whereas, The Montana Department of Labor states:

*HB 702 applies to all vaccines and is not limited to COVID-19 vaccines<sup>15</sup>;*

Whereas, The Montana DPHHS provided guidance on HB 702 that states:

*Postsecondary schools may impose immunization requirements as a condition of attendance<sup>16</sup>;*

Whereas, DPHHS Rule 37.114.712 stipulates:

*Postsecondary schools must keep immunization data for each pupil<sup>17</sup>;*

Whereas, The Board of Regents of Higher Education of the State of Montana (BOR) policy on “Student Requirements” includes “Immunizations” as its largest subsection<sup>18</sup>;

Whereas, BOR policy 301(1)(E) states:

*Before enrolling for an initial term, all post-secondary students must comply with immunization requirements of ARM 37.114.701-721:*

- 1. Students born in 1957 or later must provide evidence that they have received two measles and two rubella immunizations...*
- 2. Under ARM 37.114.711, a student may be conditionally enrolled for an initial term if the student has not received the second dose of measles and/or rubella vaccine provided they receive the second dose at least 28 days after the first dose and before the beginning of the succeeding school term.<sup>19</sup>;*

Whereas, BOR policy 301 (1)(E)(5) states:

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<sup>14</sup> [https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title\\_0200/chapter\\_0050/part\\_0040/section\\_0030/0200-0050-0040-0030.html](https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title_0200/chapter_0050/part_0040/section_0030/0200-0050-0040-0030.html)  
<sup>15</sup> <https://erd.dli.mt.gov/human-rights/human-rights-laws/employment-discrimination/hb-702>  
<sup>16</sup> <https://dphhs.mt.gov/assets/HB702Guidance09012021.pdf>  
<sup>17</sup> <https://rules.mt.gov/gateway/ruleno.asp?RN=37%2E114%2E712>  
<sup>18</sup> <https://mus.edu/borpol/bor300/301.pdf>  
<sup>19</sup> <https://mus.edu/borpol/bor300/301.pdf>

114 *Individual campuses or programs may have additional immunization/testing*  
115 *requirements*<sup>20</sup>;

116  
117 Whereas, The UM has always required immunizations and students have always provided  
118 records of them<sup>21</sup>;

119  
120 Whereas, UM immunization practices directly reflect stated BOR and Mont. Code Ann. policies  
121 that are implicitly reinforced by HB 702;

122  
123 Whereas, Societal immunization practices by learning communities helped to eradicate polio and  
124 greatly reduce the spread of measles and rubella;

125  
126 Whereas, Section 1(4) of HB 702 provides:

127  
128 *An individual may not be required to receive any vaccine whose use is allowed under an*  
129 *emergency use authorization or any vaccine undergoing safety trials;*

130  
131 Whereas, The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine was approved by the U.S Food and Drug Administration  
132 (FDA) on August 23, 2021<sup>22</sup>;

133  
134 Whereas, the United States (U.S) DPHHS has reported COVID-19 vaccines are effective at  
135 helping protect against severe disease and death from variants of the virus that cause COVID-19,  
136 and that the use of the FDA-approved Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine for individuals aged  
137 sixteen and older is one of the recommended vaccines to protect against COVID-19<sup>23</sup>;

138  
139 Whereas, The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is free and widely available in Missoula  
140 County;

141  
142 Whereas, BOR filed a petition for declaratory relief challenging HB 102 in that it violates BOR's  
143 Constitutional authority to make decisions for Montana University System (MUS) campuses<sup>24</sup>;

144  
145 Whereas, There exists a judicial trend advocating for BOR's Constitutional authority to make  
146 decisions for MUS campuses;

147  
148 Whereas, The 67<sup>th</sup> Montana Legislature has demonstrated consistent disregard for the autonomy  
149 and safety of the MUS;

150  
151 Whereas, ASUM believes that the public health and safety of the student body significantly  
152 outweighs unfounded arguments against COVID-19 mitigation;

153

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<sup>20</sup> <https://mus.edu/borpol/bor300/301.pdf>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.umt.edu/curry-health-center/new-students/>

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-approves-first-covid-19-vaccine>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-approves-first-covid-19-vaccine>

<sup>24</sup> *Board of Regents of Higher Education of the State of Montana v. The State of Montana, et al.*, Montana First Judicial District Court, Lewis and Clark County Cause No. BDV-2021-59B.

154 Whereas, The *Annals of Internal Medicine* published a study stating:

155

156 *Colleges returning to pre-COVID-19 campus activities without either broad vaccination*  
157 *coverage or high-frequency testing put their campus population at risk for widespread*  
158 *viral transmission*<sup>25</sup>;

159

160 Whereas, The CDC updated its public health guidelines for fully vaccinated people on July 27,  
161 2021 to recommend wearing masks in all public indoor spaces where transmission is categorized  
162 as substantial or high<sup>26</sup>;

163

164 Whereas, The CDC asserts that individuals should continue wearing masks until their county is  
165 no longer categorized as having substantial transmission;

166

167 Whereas, Missoula County has strong potential to continue being categorized as having  
168 substantial or high transmission while vaccination rates rise, whether by mandate or by incentive;

169

170 Whereas, Individual action towards getting vaccinated slows the spread of the COVID-19 virus  
171 in the community and contributes to the collective goal of ending the pandemic;

172

173 Whereas, The health and safety of students is at least as important as their academic success;

174

175 Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, That ASUM calls on BOR to implement a COVID-19 vaccination  
176 requirement for all students, faculty, and staff at UM;

177

178 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That ASUM calls for the implementation of a campus-  
179 wide mask requirement in all indoor spaces at UM until COVID-19 transmission falls beneath  
180 the “substantial transmission” category defined by the CDC;

181

182 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That ASUM calls for UM and BOR to support the  
183 aforementioned COVID-19 mitigation efforts;

184

185 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That ASUM calls for UM to represent the student demand  
186 for the aforementioned COVID-19 mitigation efforts alongside the demands of other shared  
187 governance bodies at UM to BOR and the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education  
188 (OCHE) in order to honestly reflect the demands of UM;

189

190 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That ASUM calls for institutional support for any  
191 potential litigation efforts proposed by OCHE and/or BOR against HB 702 in order to secure the  
192 authority to mandate COVID-19 vaccination for all students, faculty, and staff at UM;

193

194 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That this resolution be sent to Seth Bodnar, President of  
195 UM; Sarah Swager, UM Vice Provost of Student Success; Paula Short, UM Associate Vice

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<sup>25</sup> <https://www.acpjournals.org/doi/full/10.7326/M21-2965>

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html#:~:text=CDC%20recommends%20universal%20indoor%20masking,layered%20prevention%20strategies%20in%20place.>

196 President of Campus Preparedness and Response; Kimber Mckay, Chair of UM Faculty Senate;  
197 Amanda Dawsey, President of University Faculty Union; Brady Schwertfeger, Chair of UM  
198 Staff Senate; Jeff Adams, Director of Curry Health Center; Loren Bough, Regent; Todd  
199 Buchanan, Regent; Joyce Dombrowski, Regent; Casey Lozar, BOR Chair; Robert A. Nystuen,  
200 Regent; Brianne Rogers, Regent; Amy Sexton, Student Regent; Clayton Christian,  
201 Commissioner of Higher Education.

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203  
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205 Passed by Committee: September 5, 2021

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207 Passed by ASUM Senate: September 8, 2021

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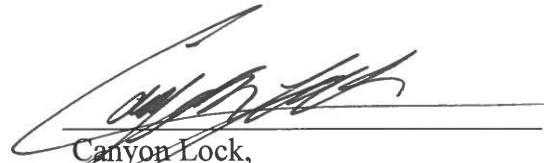
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211 Elizabeth Bowles,  
212 Chair of the Relations and Affairs Committee

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214 Passed on a 16Y-2N-0A Vote.



Canyon Lock,  
Chair of the Senate

**From:** [Casanovas, Jasmine](#)  
**To:** [Regent Casey Lozar](#); [casey.lozar@mpls.frb.org](mailto:casey.lozar@mpls.frb.org); [Regent Brianne Rogers](#); [Regent Bob Nystuen](#); [Regent Joyce Dombrowski](#); [todd@buchanancapitalinc.com](mailto:todd@buchanancapitalinc.com); [Regent Todd Buchanan](#); [Regent Loren Bough](#); [lorenbough@me.com](mailto:lorenbough@me.com); [Regent Amy Sexton](#)  
**Cc:** [Christian, Clayton](#)  
**Subject:** September Board of Regents Meeting - Public Comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 5, 2021 4:57:30 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Members of the Board:

Written public comment from the September Board of Regents meeting has been uploaded to the Regents Shared Drive at the link below.

[Sept2021-BOR-Comments](#)

Please let me know if you have any issues accessing the drive.

Thank you,

Jasmine Casanovas

Executive Assistant to the Commissioner of Higher Education

Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education | Montana University System

[jcasanovas@montana.edu](mailto:jcasanovas@montana.edu) | 406.449.9127

[www.mus.edu](http://www.mus.edu) | [MUSings Newsletter](#) | [ApplyMontana](#)

**From:** [S. Thomas](#)  
**To:** [Casanovas, Jasmine](#)  
**Subject:** U of M resolution public comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 15, 2021 6:09:00 AM

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Shannon Kinsella Thomas. I am part of a three generation University of Montana family. My father earned his PhD in parasitology, and additional degree in pharmacy from the University. I earned my BA and MA in secondary education from the University and have taught for 32 years. My daughter is now a Presidential Leadership Scholar in the school of journalism. Both my parents also retired from the Health Service as a nurse and lead pharmacist.

I write this letter in full support of the resolution by ASUM on mandating vaccinations and masks. The vaccine is fully FDA approved. Students at the University have always had vaccination requirements. I provided vaccination records prior to my daughter living in the dorms. To suggest that a vaccine which prevents a deadly disease should not be required now that any barriers scientifically have been removed would be hypocrisy.

I am weary of politicians like the Superintendent of Public Schools and Governor undermining what are the best tools to keep students safe for political gain. In the meantime, my family will be triaged in a GARAGE at St. Patrick's Hospital should they need any critical care in Missoula. The University is a community partner. Having its staff and students take the step of mandating vaccines and masks shows they truly care about the community in which they now reside.

Sincerely,  
Shannon K. Thomas

**From:** [Molly Severtson](#)  
**To:** [Casanovas, Jasmine](#)  
**Subject:** U of M resolution public comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 15, 2021 3:02:15 PM

---

To whom it may concern,

My name is Molly Severtson. My spouse and I are both alumni of UM and our daughter is a freshman there this year.

I write today in full support of the resolution by ASUM on mandating vaccinations and masks. My other two daughters attend other universities which have both required vaccinations and masks and I have a lot of peace of mind knowing they are much less likely to contract COVID-19 and knowing they are in less danger of having to return to remote classes. This is a simple public health issue and shouldn't be politicized. Let's listen to the scientists and the medical community and do the smart thing and the right thing.

Respectfully,  
Molly (Walden) Severtson, BA, 1996

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**MOLLY SEVERTSON, CFRE**  
**she/her**  
(406) 438-7187

**From:** [McKay, Kimber](#)  
**To:** [Regent Loren Bough](#); [Regent Todd Buchanan](#); [Regent Joyce Dombrowski](#); [Regent Casey Lozar](#); [Regent Bob Nystuen](#); [Regent Brianne Rogers](#); [Regent Amy Sexton](#); [Christian, Clayton](#)  
**Cc:** [Tessman, Brock](#); [Mokwa, Robert](#); [Humphrey, Reed](#); [Casanovas, Jasmine](#); [Bell, Jennifer](#); [Foos, Camie L](#); [Watson, Bradford](#)  
**Subject:** UM Faculty Senate Resolution  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 14, 2021 2:33:16 PM

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Dear Commissioner Christian, Regents, and other colleagues,

On behalf of the UM Faculty Senate, and in anticipation of the meetings this week, I wanted to share the resolution regarding COVID-19 risk mitigation efforts on our campus, which was passed by the Senators last week (38 for, 2 against, 2 abstaining). A link to the resolution is [here](#). The resolution was authored by colleagues in the College of Forestry and Conservation, and over 120 faculty from across the university signed a petition asking for it to be brought to the Senate.

Thank you for all of the work you are doing to safeguard the MUS during these challenging times. It is much appreciated. I look forward to seeing some of you at the virtual breakfast tomorrow, and as much as I can during the meetings. Our Chair-elect, Dr. Jenn Bell and I will be attending virtually as we are not on the agenda.

Respectfully,

Kimber

**Kimber Haddix McKay**

Professor, School of Public and Community Health Sciences

Director, Global Public Health

Faculty Senate Chair 2021-2022

**University of Montana**

**Missoula, MT 59812**

**Website:** [Kimber Haddix McKay](#)

[The University of Montana](#)

