



**MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
NORTHERN**

Northern Network News

The Official Newsletter of MSU-Northern - January 12, 2024

MSU-Northern Honors Rodeo Successes



This is the video that was presented at Cowboy Christmas which spotlighted three of our Nationally ranked rodeo athletes.

MSU-Northern Hosts 24th Annual MSU-Northern Cowboy Christmas



On December 9th, 2023, the MSU-Northern Rodeo Booster Club presented the 24th Annual Cowboy Christmas Fundraiser in the Armory Gym. The night provided a venue to highlight the Northern rodeo team's accomplishments to the community. Many community members don't get to watch the team compete often, as the athletes typically only have one home event each year. MSU-Northern currently has the #1 Women's Rodeo Team in the Nation, with 5 individuals sitting in the top 10 of the National Standings. The team also presented the Outstanding Advocate of the Year award to Mike Winchell with Lodestar Land & Home.

The evening featured no host cocktails, an outstanding three-course dinner, and an auction. Over \$500,000 in gross revenue was raised throughout the night. The funds will go toward scholarships, travel, and practice facilities. The team's goal every year is to increase the number of rodeo athletes at MSU-Northern, and to support a high-quality rodeo atmosphere at the school.

Steven Don Named New Dean of College of Technical Sciences

Please join us in welcoming Steven Don as the new Dean of the College of Technical Science at MSU-Northern! With a rich background in education and a dedication to fostering collaborative environments, Dean Don brings a wealth of experience and passion to his new role.

Steven Don was born and reared in New Zealand where he received his Bachelor of Commerce in Agriculture from Lincoln University, a degree that is comparable in the U.S. to an agriculture degree with an agricultural engineering minor. Additionally, he holds degrees in diesel technology from MSU-Northern and a Master's in Education – Educational Technology from MSU-Billings.



After spending time working in New Zealand, Australia and Denmark, he arrived in the US in 1985, landing in Geraldine, MT, where he spent several years immersing himself in the local community, working on farms and ranches, and establishing his own diesel repair business. He first arrived at MSU-Northern in the fall of 1992 to take on a diesel technology degree, and returned in the fall of 2003, which started a journey that has lasted over two decades.

Dean Don's 21 ½ years of teaching experience and his appointment as the Chair of the College of Technical Science in the fall of 2014 underscores his commitment to academics, leadership, and collaboration.

Altana Donates Toward Student Scholarships



Altana Federal Credit Union presented a major gift check for \$25,000 to the MSU-Northern Foundation at the Lights Basketball game on December 28, 2023. Altana directed \$15,000 of the funds to initiate an endowment which will grow each year with supplemental contributions. Altana plans to help it grow to \$100,000 or more over many years. The remaining \$10,000 will fund athletics for “instant impact” funds this calendar year. From left to right: Al Garver, CEO of the MSUN Foundation; Gerry Veis, Altana VP of the Hi-Line; Melanie Skoyen, Director of Development, MSUN Foundation; Chancellor Greg Kegel.

Two Named as Fellows for the NWCCU Data Equity Fellowship program



MSU-Northern is proud to announce that Lindsey Brandt-Bennett and Jay Howland have been selected as Fellows for the NWCCU Data Equity Fellowship program.

NWCCU's Data Equity Fellowship prepares higher education leaders to advance institutional mission fulfillment and equity initiatives through data-informed approaches to assessment, reflection, and planning to eliminate equity gaps. The Fellowship is designed to bring together faculty, staff, and administrators that identify as "data focused" or "equity focused" to collaborate on a meaningful data-informed project with expert facilitation to improve equitable outcomes.

Fellows are expected to work in pairs (or small teams) of institutional partners to produce a final project advancing their institution's mission-aligned goals to improve equitable outcomes.

Renovations to Campus Over Winter Break



While everyone was enjoying family and turkey, a group of very committed construction workers were focused on improving our campus environment in time for spring semester. They took out the two food lines in the cafeteria and replaced them with state-of-the-art friers, stoves, pizza ovens, and pop and juice dispensers. All of these renovations were designed to improve the student dining experience. The new equipment will expand and improve the food options available in the dining room.

On the other side of campus, another group of workers were enhancing Brockmann center with bright LED lights, a new ventilation system, and sound absorbing ceiling tiles. These changes make the rooms quieter, very bright, and cheery.

Finally, in another project, the Auto Tech building received a complete heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) replacement.

Library Hosts A taste of Indigenous Foods



The Vande Bogart Library and the Little River Institute recently co-sponsored this virtual program offered through the Montana State Library. The program featured Mariah Gladstone, developer of Indigikitchen, who gave an online presentation on what indigenous foods are, where we can get them, and how we can prepare them. Attendees sampled Indigikitchen's recipes for Three Sisters soup and peanut butter cookies, found on their website at <https://www.indigikitchen.com/recipes/>.

MSU-Northern's Research Helps to Identify Synaptic Mechanisms in Alzheimer's Disease



In April of 2023, Montana State University-Northern received a \$40,000 grant from the IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE), a program funded by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences division of the National Institutes of Health. This grant, which was secured by MSUN Associate Professor of Biology, Giuseppe Paolo Cortese, will support research aimed at identifying synaptic mechanisms underlying neuronal hyperexcitability in Alzheimer's Disease.

Giuseppe Paolo Cortese, the principal investigator of the project, outlined the objectives of the research: "We aim to identify early-stage cellular and molecular events that may cause the synaptic disruptions commonly associated with Alzheimer's Disease. Our preliminary findings have already led us to a novel gene candidate that is downregulated in the AD brain, and contributes to hyperexcitable activity in cultured neurons,"

[Read more...](#)

Help Keep Students Warm With the Winter Clothing Drive



Do you have winter gear you're no longer using? Donate gently worn and freshly laundered items to the Vande Bogart Library to benefit students and community members who can use them! They are collecting coats, hats, scarves, gloves, and mittens for students from Jan. 2 through Feb. 2. Students can come claim needed items during this time, then anything unclaimed will be donated to the Feed My Sheep Community Soup Kitchen to support other community members. Donations must be dropped off during the library's hours of operation. For questions call Sarah at (406) 265-4140.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No Classes Monday – Jan. 15

In honor of Martin Luther King Day (no classes, offices closed) the Vande Bogart Library will be closed on Sunday and Monday.

Important Deadlines

Jan 16th (Tuesday) Last Day to Add Classes (for full session courses)
Jan 16th (Tuesday) Last Day to Drop without a W (for full session courses)
Feb 19th (Monday) Presidents Day Holiday (no classes, offices closed)
Mar 1th (Thursday) Midterm grades due to Registrar's Office by Noon
Mar 8th-15th Spring Break Week (No classes, offices open)

Changes to FAFSA

There are many changes to FAFSA this year, here are some of the benefits to students, families, and borrowers:

- Replacing the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) with the Student Aid Index (SAI)
- Students and families will see a different measure of their ability to pay for college and will also experience a change in the methodology used to determine aid.
- The new formula removes the number of family members in college from the calculation and allows a minimum SAI of negative \$1,500 to give financial aid administrators more insight when making determinations for students with especially challenging situations.
- The FAFSA Simplification Act expands the Federal Pell Grant to more students and links eligibility to family size and the federal poverty level.

[Click here for a copy of the FAFSA Simplification Fact Sheet...](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

HILL COUNTRY REVUE VARIETY SHOW – Jan. 26, 27 Feb. 2, 3 & 9, 10

A variety show in the vein of Hee-Haw, Saturday Night Live and Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In. This production will feature a weekly Local Musician playing original music with comic interludes commenting on life in Havre and the Hi-Line. Get ready for an unforgettable evening of music, laughter, and entertainment as we bring together the finest local talents in one spectacular event!

[Click here for tickets...](#)

CALENDAR

Saturday, January 13

- Skylights Basketball @ Rocky Mountain College - 2:00 PM
- Lights Basketball @ Rocky Mountain College - 4:00 PM

Monday, January 15

- Holiday ~ Martin Luther King Day ~ No Classes, Offices Closed

Tuesday, January 16

- Last day to Add *AND* to Drop classes without receiving a "W" grade

Thursday, January 18

- Skylights Basketball vs University of Providence - 5:00 PM
- Lights Basketball vs University of Providence - 7:00 PM

Friday, January 19

- Lights Wrestling @ Missouri Valley Collegiate
- HILL COUNTRY REVUE VARIETY SHOW – Jan. 19, 20,
- MAT Hill Country Revue Variety Show – Cowan Hall Little Theatre

Saturday, January 20

- Lights Wrestling @ Missouri Valley Collegiate
- Skylights Basketball @ Carroll College - 2:00 PM
- Lights Basketball @ Carroll College - 4:00 PM
- MAT Hill Country Revue Variety Show – Cowan Hall Little Theatre

Thursday, January 25

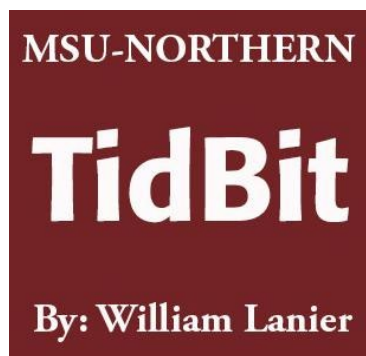
- Skylights Basketball @ Montana Tech - 5:00 PM
- Lights Basketball @ Montana Tech - 7:00 PM

Friday, January 26

- Lights Wrestling vs Southern Oregon University - 7:00 PM
- MAT Hill Country Revue Variety Show – Cowan Hall Little Theatre

Saturday, January 27

- Lights Wrestling @ Tyler Plummer Classic
- Skylights Basketball vs Montana Western - 2:00 PM
- Lights Basketball vs Montana Western - 4:00 PM
- MAT Hill Country Revue Variety Show – Cowan Hall Little Theatre



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**Montana Boy Scouts of
America thanks MSU-Northern**

Welcome to Spring Semester 2024!



This past Saturday MSU-Northern hosted the 2024 Hi-Line District 12th Annual Boy Scouts of America Merit Badge College. This is where Scouts BSA youth take classes and earn/work on a variety of merit badges. For the fifth consecutive year, this event has been on the MSU-Northern campus. 30 scouts from Great Falls, Butte, Gilford, Big Sandy, Chinook and Havre attended this year's merit badge college. The Hi-Line District Merit Badge College is currently the longest continuous running Merit Badge College in the state of Montana. Other merit badge colleges held in Montana are held

at MSU-Great Falls, MSU-Billings, Carroll College and University of Montana. Over the past five years, approximately 320 Scouts, Leaders and Parents from around Montana have attended the Merit Badge College on the Northern campus.



I would like to thank the following for having taught and/or assisted with this year's Merit Badge College; Jason Tanner and Chuck Terry (Welding), Dean Steven Don (Automotive Maintenance), Trevor Wilderson (Chess), Jeffrey Hummert (Inventing), Heather Hummert (Music), Trish Vigil (Communication), Rami Kuntz (Family Life) and Heidi Goettlich (Weather). Meteorologists Ryan Dennis also assisted with the Weather Merit Badge.

I also would like to thank the following: Tammy Boles (Student Activities), Eva Stokes (Facility Services), Dan Ulmen (Facility Services), the MSU-Northern

Facility Services Custodians, Christopher Markus, Mary Brown, Sue Suson Solomon, Clara Osborne, Jim Potter, Lianna Heimbigner, Ernest Goettlich, Paul Nugent, Dan Hair, Terry Dutton and Max Peterson (Fifth Avenue Christian Church - The Bridge). Without all these people this event would not have been nearly as successful.

Also, a special thank you to Northern Alumni, Jennifer Thompson (Graphic Design by JT) who designed the patch that was given to all those who attended and assisted with the event.

The scouts, volunteers, parents and leaders look forward to continuing and expanding this partnership with Northern in the future. Again, thank you MSU-Northern!

if you have an idea for the NNN TidBit, send me an e-mail at wjlanier1963@yahoo.com .

Visit our website

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