



# First Monday



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*From the desk of: Marilynn Miller, President and CEO  
Monday, July 4, 2005, 8:00 a.m.*

**Independence Day.** By the time you receive this, Independence Day 2005 will be over. I hope you had a wonderful holiday celebrating the founding of our nation. I believe much of our country's greatness is built upon access to education for all Americans.

**The People, Pride & Promise National Campaign Leadership Council (NCLC)** held their third annual meeting June 24 to review campaign status and delineate strategy for the remaining 18 months of the campaign effort. The NCLC is composed of 55 individuals from 26 states who have assumed frontline responsibility for the success of the \$21 million comprehensive campaign.

- To date, the People, Pride & Promise Campaign has generated \$17,003,409 in gifts and pledges. This amount has been designated by donors to many areas encompassed by the three primary initiatives of the campaign:
  - Scholarships: \$ 6,685,313
  - Capital: 1,939,983
  - University Excellence: 8,378,113
  - Total to Date: \$17,003,409
- The campaign has served to create 76 new endowment funds at the MSU-Billings Foundation. Additionally, 39 pre-existing endowment funds have increased as a result of campaign efforts. These 115 endowment funds support scholarships, operations, and programs that impact virtually every area of Montana State University-Billings.
- 119 major gifts of \$10,000 or more have been committed to the People, Pride & Promise Campaign.

## **Recent Gifts:**

- **DaimlerChrysler**, in response to a request from College of Technology (COT) Dean John Cech, will donate six new Chrysler, Dodge or Jeep vehicles for use in the Automotive Technology program. The value of DaimlerChrysler's gift is \$175,000.
- **Darryl Rensmon ('99)** pledged \$12,500 for the MSU-Billings Alumni Association Operating Endowment and the Annual Drive. Darryl serves on the NCLC and the Alumni Board. He is Chief Information Officer for Morrison Maierle Systems Corporation, and lives in Helena.
- **Ashley Burleson**, NCLC member and Foundation trustee, pledged \$2,500 to the Chancellor's Undergraduate Scholarship Endowment. Ashley is a new partner with the Crowley Law Firm in Billings, and specializes in estate planning.
- **Sandra Wong ('83)** pledged \$10,000 in honor of Professor Ernie Randolfi to the Faculty Endowment for the Health and Human Performance Department. Sandy is a Foundation

trustee and 2005 Outstanding Alumna. She is a Home Loan Consultant and Sales Manager with Countrywide Home Loans in Billings.

- **Allyn Calton, ('82)** has committed \$2,500 for scholarships at MSU-Billings. Allyn, a Foundation trustee, is Marketing Manager for the *Billings Gazette*. Allyn's daughter, Taylor, will be attending MSU-Billings in fall 2005 on a volleyball scholarship.
- **The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services** awarded a \$50,000 grant to MSU-Billings to conduct a free summer National Youth Sports Program (NYSP) for economically disadvantaged youth ages 10-16. This is the fifth year MSU-Billings has received a grant to conduct the five-week camp, which is in progress and will conclude July 15.
- **The Montana Society of Public Accountants** has given \$5,000 to award scholarships to two students pursuing a degree in accounting.

**Construction Trades Training Program.** The Montana Contractor's Association (MCA) and MSU-Billings COT have begun a partnership to provide more highly-trained workers for the construction industry. Reflecting a national trend, growth in the construction industry in Montana has been increasing for the past several years and demand is high for skilled carpenters. The Montana Bureau of Labor and Statistics projects the need for 9,000 newly trained construction workers in Montana over the next 10 years. Seed funding was made available through \$25,000 from MCA and \$25,000 from Celebrate Billings. The new Construction Trades Program will be part of the COT's Industry Center of Excellence.

**Dr. George White**, Dean of the College of Education, has been appointed Interim Provost and Academic Vice Chancellor. White will be serving in this role while a nationwide search takes place for a candidate to fill the role on a permanent basis. White takes over for Dr. Janie Park, who will be leaving MSU-Billings to become President of Chadron State College in Nebraska. Dr. Park came to MSU-Billings in 1993 as Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, and has held the position of Provost and Academic Vice Chancellor since 1996.

**Legislative and Gubernatorial action** created a pool of \$3 million for equipment upgrades for two-year, post-secondary programs in Montana. A competitive grant process generated 29 requests, totaling \$5.1 million, from 9 institutions. Of the \$3 million granted, **MSU-Billings College of Technology received over \$1.1 million** for equipment for these areas:

- Transportation (Auto Tech, Diesel, and Auto Collision, Repair and Paint): \$401,743
- Industry (Welding/Metal Fab, Drafting, and HVACR): \$272,351
- Health and Safety: \$359,462
- Cisco: \$133,141

**Prefer e-mail?** If you would prefer to receive *First Monday* electronically, please contact Campaign Associate Joy Hayworth ([jhayworth@msubillings.edu](mailto:jhayworth@msubillings.edu)).

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*First Monday* is provided to the supporters of the Montana State University-Billings Foundation to advance the cause of philanthropy.

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