



4/29/19

Today marks my first year at Montana State University Billings. I wanted to note some of the year's achievements and thank everyone for their contributions. It's a pivotal time at MSUB as the university continues to evolve.

### **Students-First**

- Spring enrollment was only down 27 students from fall to spring, whereas in past years we lost on average 270 students.
- Explore Montana Awards launched for non-WUE state and international students to make MSU Billings tuition more affordable.
- Residential housing pricing reduced by 20% with Board of Regents (BOR) unanimous approval, making our offerings more market-competitive.
- Women's Triathlon started as an additional sport, which enabled MSUB to expand athletics roster.
- Stronger focus on improving enrollment by reorganizing our recruiting efforts.
- Holistic Enrollment and Retention Committees working on identifying immediate opportunities for improvement in student recruitment and retention.
- Student retention initiatives being implemented as part of our Department of Education \$2.08 million grant, including an early-alert system.

### **Strategic**

- The university's accreditation was re-affirmed by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) in January.
- The university and community developed a new comprehensive mission, vision, and strategic plan unanimously approved by the BOR in March.
- Strategic Program Alignment process developed to better align our programs and degrees to meet student needs and market demands.
- Strong supportive ties developed with Montana State University and the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education.

## **Campus**

- Final funds raised for the Yellowstone Science and Allied Health Building to begin construction this summer. Fundraising at the Foundation is at an all-time high.
- Homecoming returned to the university for the first time in decades.
- New faculty and staff hired who are focused on putting students first.
- Military and Veterans Success Center launched with Director Githens appointed and added as a member of the Chancellor's Cabinet.
- Native American Success Center opened at City College.
- Campus store relocated so an event space (the Glacier Room) could be developed on campus for student and community events.
- University Executive Council (UEC) created to improve communication, address challenges, and work as an effective team. The UEC also provides a venue to recognize faculty and staff for their accomplishments.
- Steps taken to create a culture of inclusion with no room for hate.

## **Community**

- Supportive relationships developed and rebuilt with the community, media, and local, state and federal legislators.
- Native American Advisory Council for the university established. Tribal Liaison Officer Joe McGeshick appointed and newest member of Chancellor's Cabinet.
- Partnered with Montana VA to relocate them to University Campus.
- Buzzin' Beyond Billings tours to interact with communities, alumni, and prospective students launched in eastern Montana, Helena, Butte, Phoenix, etc.
- Inaugural class of Golden Graduates to be recognized at Commencement.
- Active shooter training exercise involving 16 agencies held on University Campus for continual improvements of our safety measures.
- MSUB community taskforce's recommendations incorporated into the new strategic plan.
- Glacier room hosted an event wherein three sitting Governors (Montana, South Dakota, and Wyoming) attended.

I am honored and privileged to serve as your Chancellor, and appreciate the confidence that you have placed in me. As we look forward, I'm excited for the improvements to come with our new strategic plan. I appreciate everyone's efforts as we work to transform MSU Billings into an even greater university.

**Dr. Dan Edelman, CPA**

**Chancellor**