

Heard, Julia

From: Office of the MSU Provost
Sent: Tuesday, January 16, 2024 8:10 AM
Subject: Provost welcome to Spring Semester 2024!



MONTANA
STATE UNIVERSITY

Office of the Provost

Dear MSU Faculty,

Welcome back to the hope and enthusiasm that accompany the dawn of a new year and a fresh academic semester!

Our top strategic priority for the past two years has been increasing the number of students who persist in their MSU education and graduate with degrees. This gets to the heart of our land-grant mission—providing high quality, relevant education to the sons and daughters of Montana and the nation. I'm pleased to let you know that we're making progress!

This year, our undergraduate fall-to-fall persistence increased by 3 percentage points, our 4-year graduation rate increased by 2 percentage points and our 6-year graduation rate increased by 1.3 percentage points. These outcomes aren't just statistics. They represent students whose lives will be enriched through the benefits of higher education as a result of your scholarship and teaching. We are moving in the right direction!

While meaningful progress is occurring, I encourage all of us to remain vigilant in our student-focused work. Let's continue our collective efforts to connect with students. I encourage you to try something new this Spring to further engage students in your class or lab. The [Center for Faculty Excellence](#) is a great source of ideas and will be offering numerous learning opportunities for instructors throughout the coming semester.

As you plan your semester, remember to factor [Final Week](#) into your course schedules and add the day and time to your syllabus. The Registrar has created a special [Final Week](#) schedule with two-hour class periods to facilitate end-of-semester formative assessments (exams) or learning activities (*how you use the final week period is up to you*).

Throughout the semester, you will receive regular updates on our ongoing accreditation review process and calls for assistance from Vice Provost Tracy Dougher, our

Accreditation Liaison. Dr. Dougher is vigorously leading campus efforts in preparation for the 7-year site visit by the review team representing [Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities](#) in October 2024.

Lastly, we will join together to celebrate the accomplishments of MSU faculty on Feb. 16 (MSU Founder's Day!) in what has become a fun annual event and gathering for faculty. Excitement will grow like a rolling snowball as we announce one awardee each day on the MSU home page, starting next week. Please plan to join us on Feb. 16, 9:00 a.m., Inspiration Hall to enjoy fellowship, refreshments and entertainment, and most importantly to celebrate our faculty colleagues. I hope to see you there!

In closing, my hope for you is that this new year will be one of joy, inspiration and achievements. Your continued commitment to excellence is the cornerstone of our mission and I am confident that, together, we will forge ahead to even greater heights of institutional success.

Best wishes for a terrific Spring semester!



Dr. Robert L. Mokwa | Executive Vice President and Provost
Montana State University
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Upcoming Events:

- Feb. 13, 7:00 p.m., Jayne Downey, Provost's Distinguished Lecture, Museum of the Rockies
- Feb. 16, 9:00 a.m., Founder's Day Faculty Awards, Inspiration Hall
- Mar. 19, 7:00 p.m., Chere LeClair, Provost's Distinguished Lecture, Museum of the Rockies
- Apr. 16, 7:00 p.m., George Haynes, Provost's Distinguished Lecture, Museum of the Rockies
- May 10, Spring Commencement, Brick Breeden Fieldhouse

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