

**From:** [Office of the MSU Provost](#)  
**Subject:** October 2024 Provost Message  
**Date:** Thursday, October 17, 2024 8:32:18 AM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)

---



**MONTANA**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

Office of the Provost

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you're finding time to enjoy the beautiful fall season as we reach the midpoint of the semester.

Thank you for your collaboration and support these past few months as we prepared for the university's 7-year accreditation review by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities.

The initial feedback was very positive – we'll learn more when NWCCU provides their written report. For now, I'll share that the peer accreditation review team was highly complementary of the collegiality of our faculty and impressed by the quality of academic programming in all the colleges. Honestly, I was not surprised by this feedback from the review team, because our MSU faculty are exceptional and highly deserve the accolades.

MSU reported a record number of students this semester, a result of attracting new students and increasing the number of students who persist. The impacts on persistence are real and important – our strategic plan aims to increase undergraduate graduation rates from 48% to 60%. Our recent graduation rate was 53%, a testament to your dedication to fostering engaging learning environments, providing mentorship and supporting students through challenges, but also a reminder to continue the good work because we still have a ways to go.

As part of that effort, I encourage you to attend the [MSU 2024 Faculty Symposium - Engage to Empower](#) on Friday, Oct. 25, 12-2 pm, Inspiration Hall, hosted by the Center for Faculty Excellence.

At this year's symposium, we will explore ways to enhance student involvement in classrooms, offering practical tips and examples to increase engagement and create a dynamic learning environment. The symposium will feature *Faculty*

*Showcase Success Stories* and offer student perspectives through a student panel. We know engaged students persist, and we can all learn from practical approaches taken by our creative MSU faculty. The lunch will be fantastic, and the student panel is always well-received by attendees. You can [register here](#).

As we work together to support our students in reaching their goals, even the smallest actions —like offering timely feedback, being accessible for advising and drop-in help, or simply checking in to see how they’re doing— can have a profound impact.

Next week we begin spring semester registration, an important time for our students to reflect on their major and the importance of their university education. Let’s strive to ensure our students graduate from MSU with both a sense of purpose and a degree they are proud to have earned. Learning is transformative and attaining a college education changes lives.

Your dedication and support make a lasting difference. Thank you for your extraordinary efforts.

Best regards,



**Dr. Robert L. Mokwa | Executive Vice President and Provost**

Montana State University

-----  
***Upcoming Events***

Oct. 21 - Nov. 8: Spring Semester registration

Oct. 25: MSU 2024 Faculty Symposium – Engage to Empower

Oct. 30: Margot Shetterly, [President's Crossing Boundaries Speaker Series](#)

Nov. 13: Last Day for students to withdraw from a class with a ‘W’ grade

Nov. 25-29: Fall Break

Dec. 13: Fall 2024 Commencement

Office of the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost  
Montana Hall | P.O. Box 172560 | Bozeman, MT 59717-2560  
[www.montana.edu](http://www.montana.edu) | [provost@montana.edu](mailto:provost@montana.edu) | 406-994-4371