

**From:** [Office of the MSU Provost](#)  
**Subject:** Celebrating MSU Faculty  
**Date:** Monday, February 10, 2025 8:03:10 AM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)

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**MONTANA**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

Office of the Provost

Dear Faculty Colleague,

Montana State University was founded February 16, 1893, as one of the [first land-grant colleges](#) with a mission devoted to education, research and outreach. We continue that mission 132 years later, transforming lives and communities through the many opportunities made possible by higher education.

Our annual [Founder's Day faculty awards](#) celebrate individuals who exemplify service to that mission. The awards recognize members of our faculty for their contributions to outreach, advising, mentoring, teaching, scholarship and the integration of those efforts. Please join me in recognizing our extraordinary colleagues at the Founder's Day Faculty Awards Celebration this Friday at 8:30 a.m. in Inspiration Hall. (Kindly [RSVP here](#) if you plan to attend.)

Your efforts are abundantly clear in the attributes of our students, who we honor this Friday at Founder's Day Awards for Student Excellence. [Forty exceptional students](#) will be recognized for their academic abilities, commitment to extracurricular activities and service to the community. Student awardees select mentors who influenced them on their journey at MSU, many of whom are faculty, which is further recognition of the positive impact that faculty have on students.

I am thrilled to report that MSU had an overwhelmingly positive outcome for our year-7 accreditation review by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. Faculty and staff teams are already working in earnest on the three recommendations provided by the external peer review committee. Leading the way is the newly assembled Advising Assessment Task Force, comprised of faculty from each college and professional advisors from Advising Commons. The task force is meeting regularly this semester to assess MSU's current processes and build a tailored plan to enhance advising outcomes for all students.

Another cause for celebration is our steady progress in student persistence to degree completion. Four-year graduation rates continue to improve as more students continue their college education from Fall to Spring semester for the third consecutive year. Preliminary counts indicate we will pass the 93% mark for student retention from Fall to Spring semester. Wow –that's a great team effort– thank you!

Congratulations to the award winners and thank you for your hard work. As we celebrate these achievements, we are reminded that our history inspires us, and our collective efforts will continue to propel MSU to new heights.

Warm regards,

*Bob*

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

Montana State University  
Tel. 406-994-4371

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***Upcoming Events***

Feb. 11: Provost's Distinguished Lecture by Brock LaMeres at the MOR  
Feb. 14: Founder's Day Faculty Awards, Inspiration Hall  
Feb. 22: CAT/griz Basketball at Worthington Arena, women at 2pm and men at 7pm  
Feb. 26-27: [Career Week](#) and Spring Job/Internship Fair  
March 1: Deadline to apply for the [CFE Director position](#)  
March 4: Provost's Distinguished Lecture by Neha John-Henderson at the MOR

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