



MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY  
**NORTHERN**

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## Northern Network News

**The Official Newsletter of MSU-Northern - August 23, 2024**

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### **Welcome to the Northern Network News!**

The Northern Network News (NNN) is your go-to source for staying informed about all the exciting happenings at MSU-Northern. This year, the NNN will be delivered to your inbox every Friday morning throughout the school year, except during vacations and holidays.

If you have something you'd like featured in the NNN, please send your submission to [potterj@msun.edu](mailto:potterj@msun.edu) by noon on Wednesday, and be sure to include "For NNN" in the subject line. Your updates are invaluable, and I aim to attend as many events as possible. If I can't make it, feel free to snap a few pictures on your cellphone and email them to me. Thank you in advance for your contributions and suggestions—I'm excited to share the latest news with you!

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## New MSU-Northern TV Spot for the Olympics



This commercial was produced using federal grant money for the purpose of promoting FAFSA completion and aired over the summer during the 2024 Paris Olympic Games coverage on KRTV.

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## DURING THE SUMMER

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### **MSU-Northern Gets New Campus Walking Trail**



This summer, MSU-Northern constructed a new walking trail, funded by a \$66,025 grant from the Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Trail Stewardship Program. The trail, built by Myers Construction, LLC, spans one-third of a mile along the south perimeter of the campus. Made of compacted gravel with a gentle grade, the trail is accessible to most community members. The project has received strong community support, including matching funds from AgWest Farm Credit Services, Havre Trails, and Independence Bank, along with contributions from MSU-Northern's Civil Engineering Technology program.

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### **Forty Students Gained Hands-On Experience Through Summer Co-ops**

This summer, 40 students from MSU-Northern took advantage of valuable Co-op Internship opportunities, working with companies such as Tractor & Equipment, Modern Machinery, Nevada Gold Mines, Wartsila, Toyota, Independence Bank, Wabtec, Tilleman Motors, Allied Steel, and Bullhook Community Health Center, among others.

These co-ops, organized by the MSU-Northern Career Center, are designed to give students practical work experience with potential employers that students may consider joining after graduation. The experience not only contributes academic credits towards their program but also provides financial benefits. Students receive a competitive salary, many are offered a living allowance, and some receive scholarships which can help cover their expenses for the following academic year. Throughout the year, we plan to share some of these

students' experiences in the NNN. If you think you might be interested in doing a coop, contact Jen Henderson in the Career Center.

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## Faculty-Student Research Article Published

Dr. Randy Maglinao and Dr. Gary Succaw, in collaboration with two recent Northern graduates, Evan Davison and Amos Taiswa, have successfully conducted and published their research paper titled "Role of Solvent in Selective Hydrodeoxygenation of Monomeric Phenols, in the *Biomass and Bioenergy* journal. This study presents a comprehensive exploration, both experimental and theoretical, into the removal of oxygen from biomass-based chemicals—a critical and challenging process in the creation of sustainable fuels and bioproducts. The team shared their findings at a conference in Anaheim this summer.

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## MSU-Northern FAFSA Workshops and Promotions



This summer, the financial aid office hosted five workshops designed to assist students and parents in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application. These workshops were part of a federal grant program aimed at addressing the challenges introduced by the new FAFSA application process. The grant also supported various promotional and advertising initiatives, including a TV spot, new billboards, bench advertisements, and social media campaigns.

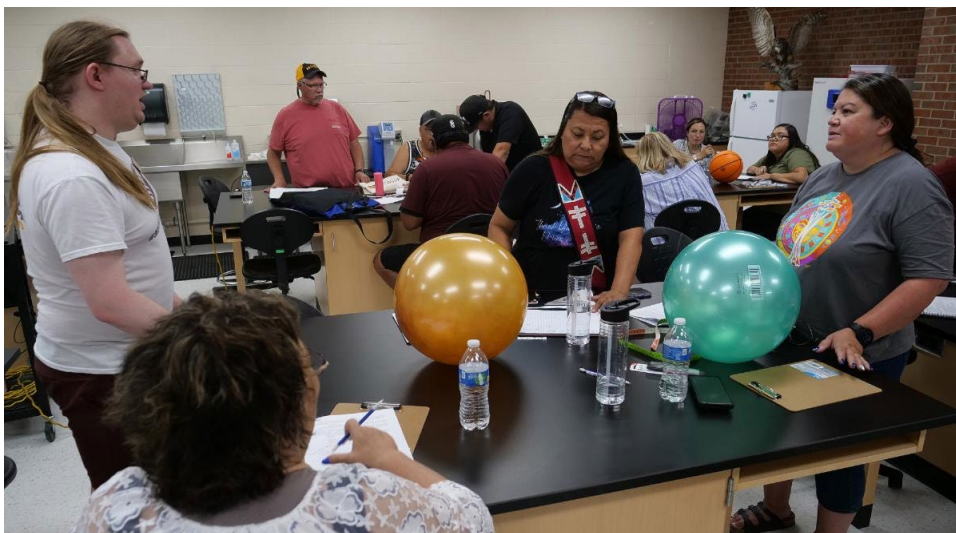
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## MSU-Northern Dean of COTS Attended Dig it Days



Steven Don, Dean of the College of Technical Sciences (COTS) at MSU-Northern, represented the university at the Yellowstone Dig It Days event. Held on August 16 and 17, 2024, at Montana Fair Grounds in Billings, this family-friendly event provided hands-on educational experiences with construction and digging equipment. Attendees, including children, had the unique opportunity to operate mini excavators and backhoes under supervision. The event emphasized safety and learning, allowing participants to explore heavy machinery, learn about excavation safety, and engage with various educational booths. Dean Don's attendance highlighted MSU-Northern's commitment to community involvement and technical education.

## MSU-Northern Hosted STEM Summer Institute Program



This July, Fort Peck Community College (FPCC) and its four-year partner, MSU-Northern, collaborated on a STEM Summer Institute program. This four-day program was held on both campuses and focused on providing professional development support for teachers to enhance their teaching of STEM subjects in the K-12 curriculum. The first half of the institute included a research trip to the Bears Paw Mountains to practice hands-on science applications with MSUN STEM faculty. The second half of the institute was dedicated to lesson planning activities with MSUN Education faculty, culminating in participant presentations. Additional program features included keynote speakers, collaborative research groups, and mini courses. This program is part of a three-year FPCC Minority Science and Engineering Improvement Project (MSEIP) Grant administered by the Department of Education.

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## **MSU-Northern Launched a New Sprint Degree in Diesel Technology**

This summer, MSU-Northern announced the launch of its innovative Sprint Degree in Diesel Technology, starting in the fall of 2024. This accelerated program, which allows students to complete an Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) in Diesel Technology in just one year, is designed to help students quickly earn a degree and jumpstart their careers in the diesel technology industry. The program also includes support to help students find success in the classroom and after graduation, including up to \$4,500 in guaranteed scholarships for the first 10 students enrolled in the program and job placement assistance for all students.

This Sprint Degree in Diesel Technology is one of the ways MSU-Northern is addressing the increasing demand for Diesel Technicians across the state. It is offered in partnership with the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education and the Montana State Legislature, who provided grant funding to create a pathway for increasing the number of skilled laborers across Montana.

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## **New Vice Chancellor of Student Success Joins the MSU-Northern Family**



MSU-Northern is pleased to present Josh Engle as the new Vice Chancellor of Student Success. He has spent the past decade dedicating his career to supporting and leading Student Affairs divisions at various universities and colleges. Josh grew up in the northeast corner of Oklahoma, just outside Ponca City.

Since arriving at Northern, Josh has been impressed by the warmth and dedication of the staff and faculty towards the students, which he says is especially evident during the SOAR events. He has witnessed firsthand the institution's commitment to student success, which has reinforced his excitement to be part

of the Northern community. Please welcome Josh if you see him around campus!

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## **Diesel Golf Scramble Raised Over \$12K**

MSU-Northern's Diesel Advisory Board hosted their eighth annual Diesel Golf Scramble. The event raised over \$12,000 for the MSU-Northern diesel program. The two-day event saw 18 golf teams compete to raise some money for the advancement of the diesel program. Every hole had an industry sponsor this year. Numerous local and out-of-town businesses donated prizes for the Calcutta which took place on July 26th. Independence Bank was the winning team.

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## **MSU-Northern Named in Cream of the Crop Awards**

In a recent community survey conducted by Ag Update, MSU-Northern was recognized in the 2024 Cream of the Crop awards. MSU-Northern was named the Winner in the Best Technical School category, solidifying its reputation as a leader in hands-on, practical education. In addition, MSU-Northern was also recognized as a Favorite in the Best Agricultural Higher Education category, standing alongside Montana State University and Miles City Community College.

This dual recognition underscores MSU-Northern's role as a vital contributor to Montana's agricultural education landscape, offering both technical and higher

education programs that meet the needs of the region's farming and ranching communities.

[Read more...](#)

## Staff and Faculty Orientation



This year's staff and faculty orientation was spread out over several days and recognized MSU-Northern employees celebrating 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 or 40 years of dedication and hard work. MSU-Northern's Chancellor Greg Kegel gave his annual welcome speech and key members of the campus administration also gave updates on their respective departments and areas.

## Daniel French Ignites MSU-Northern with Storytelling and Music





This year, MSU-Northern was honored to host Daniel French during orientation, where he captivated staff and faculty with his insights on storytelling. French, who holds an MFA and proudly identifies as Mohawk and Chicano, is not only a creative trainer and story coach but also a performer who has made his mark on stages from Bonnaroo to the Hollywood Bowl. His mission is to empower leaders to reclaim and share their stories, shifting culture in the process.

French's impact didn't stop with just Northern employees. During the Aroua Festival on Tuesday night, he enthralled students with a dynamic musical performance. His unique style blends hip hop, cumbia, and First Nations sounds, all layered over distinct LA Latin and Indigenous beats. Accompanied by his 8-string jarana (guitar), French created a soundscape that brought the crowd together.

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## Student Orientation Hi-Lights



Student enjoy the orientation BBQ



MSU-Northern students enjoyed some Icebreaker activities during orientation



Students take the annual group photo on the N on the football field



Football team enjoyed a meal with the Chancellor, key administrators, and the foundation boards that help fund their scholarships.

## Students Enjoy 4th Annual Aurora Borealis Festival



On Tuesday, August 20, as part of the Welcome Weekend opening experience, students took part in the fourth annual Aurora Borealis Festival. Students, staff, and faculty enjoyed an evening of live music, local food trucks, lawn games, and a chance to visit with campus clubs and organizations as well as local businesses and community organizations.

# Little River Institute Welcomes New Students

By Alissa Cook



This year, the Little River Institute welcomed eleven new students and their families during Native American Pre-Orientation on August 20th. This event was a collaborative project, and I'd like to thank everyone who helped—including LRI staff members Morgaine Lomayesva and Krystal Steinmetz who worked hard to prepare the Little River Institute for guests. I'd also like to recognize Taryn Wallon, who planned our meals and coordinated Early Move-In Day. Thank you to the catering team for working with us too.

We'd also like to express our gratitude to Brittany Garden and the OTLE team for leading our Brightspace session and to Lourdes Caven, who joined us that afternoon for a Financial Aid Q&A. Special shoutouts to Dr. Jennifer Brown, Josh Engle, Carmen Lunak, and our special guest Daniel French for taking time to welcome our new students. Additionally, we were joined by two of our recent graduates – Tallen Oats and Lana Wagner – who provided campus tours to our new students and their families. And finally, to whoever sent us a portable A/C unit earlier this week, you're awesome. We are grateful to everyone who shared their time with us on Sunday!

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### **Library's hours for fall 2024**

Monday – Thursday – 8:00 am – 9:00 pm

Friday – 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Saturday – Closed

Sunday – 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

[Click here](#) to see the Library Website for Holiday Hours.

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### **Pure Gold Nominations**

Pure Gold is accepting nominations for the fall semester.

<https://www.montana.edu/puregold/>

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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### **Join the Community Orchestra and Choir**

Fall is here and it is time for musicians of every stripe to consider adding your voice or instrument's song to the MSUN Community Choir or the MSUN Community Orchestra. There are no auditions required, just your time and musical talent.

The MSUN Community Orchestra is trying something different this year. They are morphing into a Jazz Orchestra. The Orchestra will begin practice on Tuesday, August 27 at 6:30 p.m. The Orchestra works on a number of different pieces in preparation for a final concert. Students may enroll in the 1 credit orchestra course if interested.

The MSUN Community Choir will begin practice on Monday, September 9 at 7 p.m. in room 208 (the choir room) in Pershing Hall. The choir works on a number of different pieces in preparation for their final concerts including the Pianos and Pipes in December. Students may enroll in the 1 credit choir course if interested.

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## August Diversity Dates

### August 26 – Women’s Equality Day

First passed by Congress in 1974, this day honors women’s rights to vote in the 19th Amendment which prohibited discrimination with voting based on one’s sex.

### August 31 – International Day of People of African Descent

This day hopes to celebrate all of the contributions and to eliminate all discrimination. It was first established as a result of 2020, a major year of racial injustice across the world.

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## CALENDAR

### Saturday, August 24

- Skylights Volleyball @ University of Providence Tournament 11:00 AM

### Tuesday, August 27

- National Night Out, SUB Lawn 4-9 PM

### Wednesday, August 28

- LAST DAY TO ADD CLASSES
- LAST DAY TO DROP A CLASS WITHOUT A “W”
- MSUN Student Club & Organization Fair, SUB Ballroom 12noon-5 PM
- Havre Trap Club Fall League starts, South on 5th Avenue to Co Rd 802, 5 PM
- Sounds on the Square, 322 1st Street, *FREE summer concert series* 6 PM,
- Trivia Night, Crawford Distillery, 336 2nd Street, *FREE all ages welcome* 6 PM
- Northern Jeopardy, SUB Lights Lounge 8 PM

### Thursday, August 29

- Skylights Volleyball @ QUAZ Volleyball Tournament 12:00 PM

### Friday, August 30

- Skylights Volleyball @ QUAZ Volleyball Tournament 10:00 AM
- ASMSUN INTRAMURALS & REC NIGHT: Faculty/Staff vs. Students
- Backyard Storytellers: An acoustic summer concert series,- 6:30pm,
- COLLEGE COLORS DAY - wear your college colors & show your pride!
- Handmade Bookbinding Class Havre-Hill County Library, 402 3rd Street, *RSVP 406-265-2123 12-2 pm,*

### Saturday, August 31

- Lights Football @ Mayville State University 6:00 PM
- Saturday Market, Town Square (322 1st Street) 8 AM-12 noon

MSU-NORTHERN

# TidBit

By: William Lanier

(#416)

## Welcome (Back) to the NNN TidBit

The NNN TidBit would like to wish all Northern students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of Northern a SAFE and enjoyable new school year. For those of you who are new to the NNN, welcome! To returning readers, welcome back. The NNN TidBit is a weekly column centered on Northern, alumni, or various other Northern connections. This is the 416<sup>th</sup> edition of the NNN TidBit, which first appeared in the January 26, 2007, issue of the Northern Network News. In case you were wondering that would be 6,420 days ago or 17 years, 6 months, and 29 days!

The hope is that the TidBit is something that, you the reader, will enjoy and look forward to each week. I would like to thank all who have sent me e-mails in the past. PLEASE if you have an idea for the NNN TidBit, send me an e-mail at [wjlanier1963@yahoo.com](mailto:wjlanier1963@yahoo.com)

Have a great year!

Visit our website

Montana State University-Northern | 406-265-3700 | [www.msun.edu](http://www.msun.edu)

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