



MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY  
**NORTHERN**

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## Northern Network News

The Official Newsletter of MSU-Northern - February 20, 2026

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### Student Spotlight: Elaine Reed



*Student  
Spotlight*

**ELAINE  
REED**

*"Serving. Leading. Growing."*



[Watch her testimony...](#)

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## Career Fair Welcomes Participants to Havre



The Career Center hosted a lively social gathering on Tuesday, February 17, at Triple Dog Brewery, bringing employers, deans, and campus administrators together in a relaxed and engaging setting. The event created valuable opportunities for industry partners to connect with academic leaders, exchange ideas, and explore potential collaborations with Northern's programs. It also gave employers the chance to network with one another, strengthening industry relationships and sparking new partnerships. Most importantly, the evening helped build new connections while rekindling long-standing relationships that support student success and workforce development.

## Spring Career Fair Brings Employers, Internships, and Opportunity to Campus



MSUN's Spring 2026 Career Fair took place on February 18, bringing energy and opportunity to the Armory Gymnasium as students and alumni gathered to

connect with employers and explore career paths. Hosted by the Career Center, the event ran from 9 am to noon and featured more than sixty companies eager to meet Northern students.

Representatives traveled from across the region and beyond to recruit talent, discuss career opportunities, and share insights about their industries. Attendees moved from table to table, building connections, learning about openings, and gaining valuable face-to-face experience with potential employers. Many students shared résumés, discussed their skills, and even participated in on-the-spot interviews for summer internships and full-time positions after graduation.

The Career Center extends a special thanks to the event sponsors whose support helped make the fair possible.

### **Gold Level Sponsors**

Exxon Mobil Corporation and Wärtsilä North America

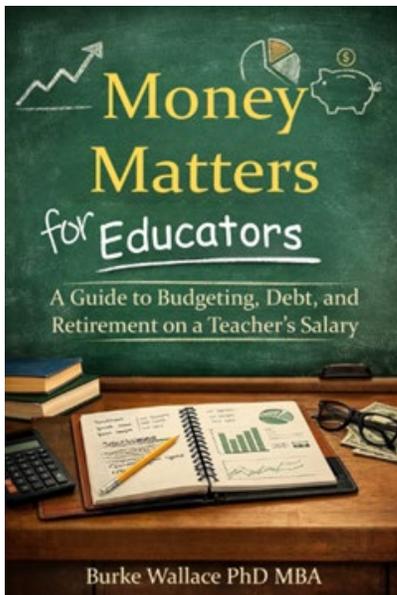
### **Maroon Level Sponsors**

Frontline Ag Solutions, Riverside Contracting, Inc., Jackson Contractor Group, Inc., and Enterprise Mobility

The event provided a meaningful bridge between classroom learning and career success, giving students a chance to take confident steps toward their professional futures.

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## **Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Burke Wallace Publishes First Book!**



Dr. Burke Wallace, assistant professor of education at Montana State University-Northern, has published his first book — *Money Matters for Educators: A Guide to Budgeting, Debt, and Retirement on a Teacher's Salary*.

Drawing on more than two decades of experience in the education field, Dr. Wallace provides educators with practical financial tools and insights tailored to their unique career paths and economic realities. From managing budgets and paying down debt to planning for retirement while navigating the financial pressures of the education profession, his book offers evidence-informed guidance that meets educators where they are.

As Dr. Wallace explains through accessible strategies and school-based examples, personal finance doesn't have to be overwhelming, and educators don't have to go it alone. This book was over a decade in the making and was written for new and veteran educators alike, though its principles apply to all individuals trying to make ends meet on a middle-class salary.

The book is now available in eBook and paperback formats; you can learn more and purchase your copy here: <https://books2read.com/burkewallace> Please join us in congratulating Dr. Wallace on this significant milestone in his scholarship and service to the education community!

Dr. Wallace will be giving a talk and book signing on Tuesday March 31, 2026 at 6 pm at the Havre-Hill County Library and Tuesday May 26, 2026 at the Great Falls Public Library.

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## **Chad Spangler appointed to Montana Board of Allied Healthcare Professionals**

Dr. Chad Spangler, MSU-Northern Professor of Integrated Health Sciences, has been appointed by Gov. Greg Gianforte to serve as a member of the Montana Board of Allied Healthcare Professionals. Housed within the Employment Standards Division of the Montana Department of Labor and Industry, the Board of Allied Healthcare Professionals is charged with overseeing the licensing and occupational activities of allied healthcare professionals across the state to ensure compliance with all state laws and regulations.



The specific occupations that fall under this Board's purview include Clinical Laboratory Scientists, Technicians, and Specialists; Radiologic Technologists; and Respiratory Care Practitioners. Dr. Spangler is one of only seven members of the Montana Board of Allied Healthcare Professionals and is serving as the appointed public member. Congratulations to Dr. Spangler for this well-deserved acknowledgement of his expertise in the field!

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## Steven Henson Receives George M. Dennison Civic Engagement Scholarship

MSU–Northern student **Steven Henson** has been awarded the **George M. Dennison Civic Engagement Scholarship**, a competitive \$1,000 award recognizing Montana college students who demonstrate exceptional leadership, service, and commitment to their communities while pursuing their education.



Named for one of the founding presidents of the Montana Campus Network for Civic Engagement, the scholarship honors former University of Montana President **George M. Dennison** and his legacy of advancing civic responsibility and service through higher education. The award is supported by the Dennison family, Reach Higher Montana, and private donors.

Henson has devoted decades to volunteer service in his California hometown, contributing hundreds of hours to **Boy Scouts of America** leadership, founding a youth football league, coaching flag football and softball, and serving as a church deacon coordinating soup kitchens and outreach for underserved community members.

The **Montana Campus Network for Civic Engagement**, hosted by the **University of Montana**, includes 18 colleges and universities committed to strengthening communities through service, leadership, and civic engagement.

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## Terry Expands Support for High School Welding Programs

Last year, the *NNN* reported that MSUN Welding professor Chuck Terry assisted eight Montana high schools in offering dual enrollment welding courses through MSUN, under his guidance. This year, that number has ballooned to 18.

Terry equips high school instructors with curriculum materials aligned with Northern’s standards, provides ongoing guidance, and visits schools to meet students, administer testing, and offer hands-on support. He emphasizes the importance of strong



relationships with instructors, many of whom teach multiple trades such as welding, small engines, and woodworking. Terry helps them bridge gaps and strengthen their programs.

These partnerships give students a valuable head start toward earning welding certificates while still in high school. Terry's passion for welding and education has inspired hundreds of students and teachers alike, demonstrating how dedication and collaboration can strengthen Montana's future workforce. He received a Golden N Award in 2025, recognized for his work as an inspirational educator. The Golden N is considered the most prestigious award an MSUN faculty or staff member can receive because they are nominated and selected by students.

Terry's work exemplifies MSU-Northern's commitment to empowering communities and advancing technical education statewide.

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## **CASE Holds Info Sessions for 2027 Europe Study Abroad Program**



On Thursday, February 19, the College of Arts, Sciences, and Education (CASE) hosted the first of two information sessions for next year's study abroad opportunity. Plans are underway for **Explore Europe Over Spring Break 2027**, offering students the chance to experience Europe's rich cultural history while earning up to 12 college credits.

This nine-day educational trip is designed to provide unforgettable learning experiences through travel, cultural exploration, and academic engagement.

The second information session will be held Tuesday, February 24, at 4:00 p.m. in Cowan Hall, Room 308.

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# Campus + AI :

## What You Need To Know...

By: Scott Guyant

### “When Your Study Buddy Starts Doing the Work: Risks of Leaning on AI”

If the first column sounded optimistic, this one covers the caution signs. Many concerns are actually coming from students themselves. In Jisc’s 2025 survey, some students who relied too heavily on AI saw their confidence and grades drop and have begun to scale back their use (Attewell, 2025). A UK survey of teens found most used AI regularly, but many are worried it was harming their ability to study independently (Adams, 2025).

- **Outsourcing the hard parts of learning**

When AI drafts full answers or structures your entire project, you are skipping the mental work that builds the skills needed. Reviews of AI in higher education warn that over-reliance can undermine critical thinking and problem-solving, especially if AI is used mainly to produce polished text (Wu et al., 2025; U.S. Department of Education, 2023).

- **Confident, biased, or inaccurate answers**

Generative AI often sounds very sure of itself even when it invents citations or oversimplifies complex topics. Systematic reviews highlight the hallucinations, gaps, and bias as persistent issues (Labadze et al., 2023; Jin et al., 2025). Policy guidance from UNESCO and others stresses that AI output must be always checked against trustworthy sources, not treated as authoritative (Miao, 2023; U.S. Department of Education, 2023).

- **Data trails, equity, and uneven rules**

Commercial AI tools collect prompts and usage data in ways that are not always clear to students (Baytas & Ruediger, 2024; Jin et al., 2025). Access is uneven, too: some students can afford the premium tools, others must rely on free versions and slow phones or avoid AI entirely. At the same time, students encounter inconsistent course policies and genuine confusion about what “allowed” use looks like (Attewell, 2025).

To keep AI in its proper place, try three quick questions:

1. Whose work is this? Could I explain it without the AI output?
2. What skill or skills am I practicing, and what am I skipping?
3. Does this match my instructor’s AI policy, and could I describe my AI use openly?

If you can answer those honestly and still feel comfortable, you are more likely to be using AI as a study partner, not a stand-in.

Full references and further reading for this column are available at:  
<https://libguides.msun.edu/c.php?g=1502960>

As always please reach out to me with questions, comments, or topic you would like me to address next.

**Scott Guyant**  
Research Librarian

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### Now Accepting Student Excellence Nominations

The Student Excellence Awards recognize Northern students who have exemplified a commitment to the pursuit of high academic achievement and significant student engagement. These students hold themselves and others to a high standard, strive for integrity in all areas of their lives, and model for others a commitment to holistic learning and engagement.

This year, we will be awarding students as part of the Awards Day celebration, scheduled for April 17<sup>th</sup>. The deadline for submissions is March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

[Click Here to nominate a student ...](#)

If you have any questions please contact Taryn Wallon, Dean of Students.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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### Innovative Teaching & Learning Festival Wednesday, Feb. 25

4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Hensler Auditorium

Join OTLE for their annual Teaching and Learning Festival! This year they have five faculty members delivering a brief, 10-minute presentation on innovative teaching methods or research they are implementing in the classroom. Following each presentation, there will be a five-minute Q&A session for further discussion and collaboration. All faculty and staff are invited to attend, learn new strategies, and join the conversation.

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## **Second Info Session for 2027 Europe Study Abroad Program – Feb. 24**

The second information session will be held Tuesday, February 24, at 4:00 p.m. in Cowan Hall, Room 308.

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## **Brown Bag Lecture Series**

Thursday, March 12, 2026, 12 pm-1 pm in ATC Hensler Auditorium -  
Presented by Dr. Praveen Dubey

Wednesday, April 15, 2026, 12 pm-1 pm in ATC Hensler Auditorium -  
Presented by Dr. Kasthuri Udayakumar

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## **Winter Wellness Workshop: Mindful Journaling – Mar. 26**

Date: March 26<sup>th</sup>

Time: 4:00 PM-6:00 PM

Location: Vande Bogart Library Makerspace (Main floor by the study rooms!)  
The Winter Wellness Workshop Series concludes with a mindful journaling session using the handmade books created earlier in the series. Participants will explore journaling and mindful doodling as creative, low-pressure ways to reflect and unwind.

This session is beginner-friendly and open to all, with no expectation to share or write in any particular way. All materials are provided, and no prior experience is required.

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## **Annual Casino Night – Mar. 25**

ASMSUN is excited to announce the date for their Annual Casino Night. We will be hosting this event on March 25th, 2026. Registration for students opens at 5:30 PM. The Casino and the Lights Lounge open at 6:30 PM. Casino closes at 9:30 PM.

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## **Spring Break – March 16-20**

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## **Spring Fling – Apr. 3**

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# CAMPUS SCHEDULE

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## Friday, February 20

Lights Wrestling @ Cascade Collegiate Conference  
Skylights Basketball vs Montana Tech - 5:00 PM  
Lights Basketball vs Montana Tech - 7:00 PM

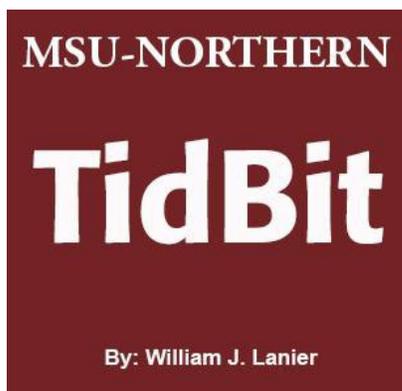
## Saturday, February 21

Lights Wrestling @ Cascade Collegiate Conference  
Skylights Basketball vs Montana Western - 5:00 PM  
Lights Basketball vs Montana Western - 7:00 PM

## Sunday, February 22

Daytona Days - Morgan Lounge - 5:00 PM  
Watch party for the Daytona Duels with a presentation on the Daytona history

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## (#452) Northern Sports Record

How many times have you been watching a Northern Athletic event and wondered what the Northern record is for that event? Or how many Northern Wrestlers have become National Champions? Or how is the rodeo team doing in the regional rankings?

The answers to many of these are right on the Northern Athletic website. You may want to save this Northern TidBit or link to this TidBit in your phone for future reference.

[Official Athletics Website - MSU-Northern](#)

### Wrestling

[Wrestling Quick Facts](#)

[Wrestling Post-Season Honors: NAIA All-Americans](#)

[Wrestling NAIA National Champions](#)

### Rodeo

[NIRA – National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association](#)

[2025-2026 Big Sky Region Standings](#)

## **Men's Basketball**

[Lights Basketball Individual Records](#)

[Lights Basketball Team Records](#)

## **Women's Basketball**

[Skylights Basketball Individual Records](#)

[Skylights Basketball Team Records](#)

[Skylights Basketball All-Americans](#)

## **Volleyball**

[Skylights Volleyball Individual/Team Records](#)

[Skylights Volleyball All Americans/MVPs](#)

## **Football**

[Lights Football Individual Records](#)

[Lights Football Team Records](#)

[Football Post-Season Honors: All-Americans](#)

[Football Post-Season Honors: All-Conference](#)

Please continue to check back for more NNN TidBits! If you see anything that you would like me to highlight, please send it to me at [wjlanier1963@yahoo.com](mailto:wjlanier1963@yahoo.com). This week's TidBit came about as a result of an e-mail question. Thank you, Pat!

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STAY CONNECTED



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