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From: Office of the MSU Provost <provost@montana.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, October 04, 2022 8:40 AM
Subject: You are a difference-maker



Office of the Provost

Dear Colleagues,

Your personal interest in a student's success could make the difference between that student completing their degree or not persisting. We know this is a critical week in the semester for student persistence - however, the good news is that you are positioned to be a difference-maker.

As we approach the midpoint of the fall semester, you may notice that some of your students are struggling or even disengaging with their education. I encourage you to take a proactive stance to help all your students succeed, especially students who may be struggling. Some actions you can take include:

- **Take a pulse of your class through a reflective check-in** or other feedback technique. Our Center for Faculty Excellence has [several resources](#) to help you do this.
- **Reach out to students who have performed poorly** on an exam or have had spotty attendance. Invite them to visit with you during office hours and encourage them to take advantage of [student resources](#). I suggest bookmarking this page as a helpful reference to academic and non-academic resources for assisting students.
- **Encourage students to use Academic Help Centers and MSU Tutoring Services.** Refer students to the many academic help centers that bolster disciplinary learning such as the Writing, Math, Chemistry and Physics Helps Centers. Encourage your students to use [Smarty Cats Tutoring](#).
- **Utilize academic support tools** available at the [Allen Yarnell Center for Student Success](#). Here you will find ideas and recommendations to help students organize their coursework, balance study time, improve time management skills, address motivational issues, and learn about study strategies and other basic academic skills.
- **Submit an [Early Alert](#).** This can be done through the [navMSU](#) platform, which makes it easy for you to communicate with students via email or text. Once submitted, the student will receive notification

of your alert with action steps they can take. In addition, an advisor from AYCSS will reach out to the student with services to support their success and persistence to degree.

- **Re-energize the classroom through [active learning](#) strategies** that create a learning environment where students engage actively with the content, other students and the instructor to create deeper meaning for themselves and develop critical skills along the way.

It's a busy and exciting week for Montana State with [Career Fair](#) and many exciting Homecoming activities, right on the heels of Parent/Family weekend. These events help shape the college experience for our students. Yet as important as they are, our students' intellectual and professional development remain central to their reason for attending MSU.

As their faculty, your role is vital in helping students think critically, communicate effectively and engage as local and global citizens. You can make a difference in the lives of the young men and women in your courses by recognizing we are entering a critical make or break period in the semester for many at-risk students.

Thank you for your hard work and dedication. Montana State University is a special place because of you and your efforts.

Sincerely,



Robert Mokwa
Provost and Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs
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