From: Office of the MSU Provost

Subject: Fostering Persistence and Preparing for the Future **Date:** Monday, September 15, 2025 8:04:54 AM

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Dear Colleagues,

As we enter the fifth week of classes, Montana State University is again experiencing robust fall enrollment and strong research activity amid a changing landscape of higher education nationwide. At MSU, student persistence has also improved, with record numbers of non-graduating students from last spring returning this fall. These successes are a direct result of your dedication to fostering student learning, creating new knowledge, and equipping students with the resources they need to succeed.

At this stage of the semester, some students may begin to experience difficulties that, if unaddressed, can jeopardize their academic progress. Early intervention is often the key to helping them succeed. I encourage you to use the Early Alert feature of navMSU to connect students with our success coaches and other available Support Services that will help them get back on track.

We also offer support resources for faculty! Check out the incredible array of workshops and training opportunities offered by the <u>Center for Faculty</u>
<u>Excellence</u>, the <u>Office of Research Development</u> and the <u>Teaching and Learning</u>
<u>Technologies</u> team.

The rapid rise of artificial intelligence is reshaping many aspects of our lives and work. Earlier this month, we hosted an AI Forum to examine both opportunities and challenges this technology presents. As AI tools continue to evolve and become more pervasive, MSU will take a proactive role in developing strategies to position the university for the future and to prepare students for an AI-enabled workplace.

I encourage you to consider both the applications and the limitations of AI technology within your discipline. We need your help, and I invite you to contribute your expertise to ongoing discussions. Additional opportunities and information will be forthcoming.

Please make note of the upcoming events below. I look forward to seeing you at one or more of them!

Sincerely,



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

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Upcoming Events

Oct. 21: Provost's Distinguished Lecture, Virginia Bratton, 7:00 pm, Museum of the Rockies

Oct. 29: Faculty Symposium, 11:30-1:30, Inspiration Hall, NAH

Dec. 12: Fall 2025 Commencement

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