

Heard, Julia

From: Office of the MSU Provost
Sent: Wednesday, August 13, 2025 8:01 AM
Subject: Join Me in Welcoming Students and President Tessman



MONTANA
STATE UNIVERSITY

Office of the Provost

Dear Colleagues,

A warm welcome as we begin the Fall 2025 semester! I hope your summer offered time to recharge and reconnect with the passions that drive your work.

On August 20, we will greet a new class of students, eager to begin this next phase of life and ready to explore all that a Montana State University education offers. Let's extend to them the warmth and encouragement that define our community, ensuring their first semester is a positive and inspiring experience. As we greet our newest Bobcats, our returning students remind us that persistence and dedication open doors to opportunity and achievement.

The past few months have brought meaningful change to our university. As we bid farewell to President Cruzado, we welcomed Montana State University's 13th president, [Dr. Brock Tessman](#). His enthusiasm for higher education and his commitment to being an engaged presence on campus are already evident. I encourage you to introduce yourself, share your work and personally welcome him into our academic community.

This summer, we kicked off a new era in teaching and learning with the launch of Canvas, our upgraded learning management system. Canvas brings powerful tools to support course delivery, and I encourage you to take advantage of the excellent [resources](#) available. The Center for Faculty Excellence will offer [workshops](#) throughout the semester to help you explore its features and make the most of what it offers.

Academic advising will be a central focus this year. Research shows that caring, informed advising is pivotal to student success and persistence to degree completion. To strengthen this vital work, advising resources are being restructured under Student Success to provide a more holistic, seamless experience for students.

A new Campus Advising Assessment Team will be examining best practices, assessment strategies and opportunities for continuous improvement. Please

participate in discussions that your deans, department heads and directors will be facilitating on how we can further improve our collective advising practices.

With new opportunities before us, let's approach this year with a shared commitment to excellence and to the success of every student we serve.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob".

Dr. Robert L. Mokwa | Executive Vice President and Provost
Montana State University
Tel. 406-994-4371

Upcoming Events

Aug. 13 (**TODAY**): Faculty and Staff [Welcome Back Picnic](#), 11:30am, Romney Oval

Aug. 19: [Convocation](#) with author Michael Punke, 4:00pm, Brick Breeden Fieldhouse

Aug. 20: First day of classes

Sept. 10: Last day to drop a class, last day to opt out of Inclusive Access course materials

Oct. 21: Registration opens for Spring 2026

Dec. 12: Fall 2025 Commencement

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