

Media Contact:

Tiffini Gallant

Email

(406) 657-2252

Facebook

LinkedIn

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY BILLINGS FOUNDATION

JULY 2020

BILL KENNEDY, PRESIDENT & CEO



Bill Kennedy has found his calling in helping Montanans succeed. When he joined the Montana State University Billings Foundation as president and CEO in 2016, he took another step on a long journey of improving Yellowstone County.

As CEO, Kennedy oversees the foundation's staff under the supervision of its board of trustees. While his primary goal is to fundraise for Montana State University Billings, he believes it all starts with building relationships. Foundation staff work with development, scholarships, and alumni relations, and Kennedy educates people about student needs and the importance of higher education in Montana. As the foundation's capital campaign for a science building concludes, Kennedy hopes to grow the organization's \$37 million in endowments and assets with student-first projects, such as raising scholarships to make school affordable and attract more students to Montana State University Billings.

Before his time as CEO, Kennedy was the longest-serving commissioner in the history of Yellowstone County. For 24 years as county commissioner, Kennedy served on local, state and national boards, like the Montana Association of Counties and the National Transportation Safety Board. He helped pioneer the Big Sky Honor Flight, which took 750 veterans to Washington, D.C. His legacy as commissioner is in the establishment of the Yellowstone National Cemetery in Laurel, MT. Kennedy's

experience and the relationships he built with people in the Billings community, Montana, and nationwide during his service as commissioner translate into his role at the non-profit foundation. He left the local legislature because he believed in educating students, keeping people out of poverty, and preparing a new generation of workers to grow Montana.

Kennedy has been a long-time proponent of education. After earning a bachelor's degree in secondary education and a master's in personnel and guidance with an emphasis in school counseling, he became an educator in Yellowstone County. He began the Even Start family literacy program in Billings in 1988, which served over 120 families annually. Four years later, he was recognized by the MSU Billings College of Education with an award for excellence in education. He's also received recognition from the Marine Corps League for his work with veterans and was honored with the Jeanette Rankin Peace Award by Rocky Mountain College's Institute for Peace Studies in 2016.

When Kennedy is not striving for a better Montana, he's with his family. He and his wife, Mary, have enjoyed 38 years of marriage, two married daughters and four grandsons.

"If we can help the students of MSU Billings achieve and get their degree, we will make a better community."

Bill Kennedy