

# THE FOUNDATION

Nov 2020

## Inside

*MSUB Foundation offers many options for your planned gifts this holiday season.*

## Coming Up

- *New chancellor Dr. Stefani Hicswa begins Jan. 11!*
- *Happy holidays from the MSUB Foundation! Our office will be closed Nov. 11, 24, 25, Dec. 25, and Jan. 1.*



Sydney Rochford,  
Business management  
student at MSU Billings  
and recipient of the  
Mike Ross Endowed  
Scholarship for the  
2020-21 academic year

## Making Education a Reality

I graduated from Three Forks High School in May 2017. I was recruited to MSUB by the women's golf coach who encouraged me to apply for scholarships. At the time, I didn't know whether college would be an option for me without the help of financial assistance. As a child of a single mother, the cost of college seemed out of reach. However, with the gracious donations from the MSUB family, a secondary education became a reality.

Each year I spent time applying for every scholarship I qualified for, in hopes I would never have to take out student loans. I was overwhelmed by the support I received, in majority from the MSUB Foundation. I never had to worry about how I was going to cover my bills, which was a blessing because I could focus on my academics and experience at MSUB.

In my time at MSUB, I've been involved in many memorable organizations, all of which contributed to an unforgettable college experience. My campus and community engagement would not have been possible without the help and encouragement I received through scholarships.

For someone who didn't know if I could afford a secondary education, I can proudly say I will be graduating in May 2021 with a bachelor's degree in business management. I am looking forward to starting my career with all I have learned through this experience, thanks to the support of generous donors.



**In academic year 2019-20, MSUB Foundation disbursed \$588K through 423 en**

## MSU Billings Appoints New Chancellor

Beginning Jan. 11, 2021, MSU Billings will have a new leader at its helm. Dr. Stefani Hicswa was recently appointed to the university's chancellor position, vacated by former chancellor, Dr. Dan Edelman, who resigned for health reasons in August.

Hicswa is a native of Dillon, Montana, who currently serves as president of Northwest College in Powell, Wyoming. Under her leadership, Northwest College achieved the highest completion rate in its history, completed significant capital projects, and launched comprehensive strategic visioning, enrollment management, and facilities master plans.

Stating that the role feels like "an opportunity to come home," Hicswa said she can't wait to be a Yellowjacket. The MSU Billings Foundation looks forward to welcoming her to the 'Jacket family.



## Planned Gift, Rewarding Investment

Over 20 years ago, I established the Mike Ross Scholarship Endowment at MSUB using deferred gift annuities. Since then, through personal donations, gifts from friends, and increases due to gains in the MSUB Foundation's portfolio, this fund has grown beyond my wildest expectations. The endowment now has enough funds to provide scholarships for two or three students per year.

Although I served on the foundation's board of trustees for six years, I am not an alumnus of MSUB. I am simply a Billings resident that saw a need to help students who are financially struggling to get an education. I was in college in the 60s and was not confronted with the financial difficulties that students face today.

Throughout the years, I have had the privilege of meeting many of the recipients of the scholarship I established. One student took seven years to complete her degree and then went on to earn her master's; another arrived in this country not speaking any English; and another was a high school dropout who later earned a GED. They all became honor students. **BEST INVESTMENT I HAVE EVER MADE.** Their stories have amazed me and inspired me to help more and more students. As a society, we have an obligation to educate our youth so they can become productive citizens of our communities.

I have been so rewarded through this gift. If you can help a student in any way, please do.



Mike Ross,  
Former MSUB  
Foundation Trustee

"I am simply a Billings resident that saw a need to help students who are financially struggling to get an education."



**Endowed scholarship funds. Thanks to donors who support these scholarships.**

## Inspiring Impact at MSU Billings

Mike Ross is an inspiration. He used the planned giving tools at his disposal to create a perpetual endowment at MSUB to help students like Sydney and to leave a legacy that will go on for generations. Every year, Mike receives a personalized thank you from his scholarship recipients. It's important to Mike that he knows who his scholarships support. We could not agree more. As Sydney shared, it truly makes the difference in her life.

We hope that Mike is an inspiration to you

**Bill Kennedy, President & CEO**

as well. I ask you, consider using the same planned giving tools he used to benefit students like Sydney. In Mike's case, he used deferred gift annuities to fund his established endowed scholarship. In this way, Mike made an impact on students while simultaneously receiving the enhanced tax credits through the Montana Endowment Tax Credit.

Perhaps you, too, would like to impact students in a significant way. Use these planned giving tools that benefit students and you. Call us today at (406) 657-2244 to learn more. I'd love to talk about it with you.

## Corks & Cuisine: A Full-Circle Contribution

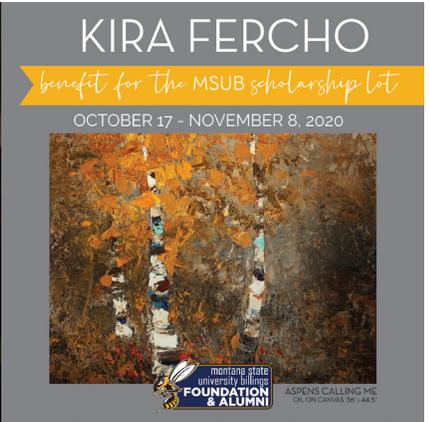
MSUB alumna Kira Fercho received scholarships as a student. Since graduating, she gives back during our annual Wine & Food Festival – this year was no exception! Fercho donated three incredible paintings for our first-ever online art auction. Thanks to her generosity, all auction proceeds benefitted scholarships for our current Yellowjackets.

Thank you to North Acre Real Estate for

displaying Fercho's art and allowing supporters to preview the pieces in person through October; bidding ended Nov. 8. Special thanks to Merton Musser and Musser Brothers Auctioneers for hosting the online auction.

Congratulations to the winning bidders who helped Fercho pay it forward! Did you miss the auction? Make a matched gift to the Montana Access Scholarship at [msubfoundation.com](http://msubfoundation.com).

**Pictured:** Kira Fercho applies oil paint to a canvas in the impasto style. **Right:** A graphic promoting Fercho's art auction for the MSUB scholarship lot.



## This time – plan your ways to give!

A donation through the mail or a credit card gift online are the most familiar ways to give a charitable gift to your favorite causes. But have you ever considered planning your gift? These types of gifts offer significant tax savings.

### Charitable Gift Annuities

Are you looking for a source of steady income in this low interest rate environment? Consider a charitable gift annuity to an endowment that will provide income now or later while giving Montanans an immediate tax credit through the Montana Endowment Tax Credit. You don't need another source of income? A deferred gift annuity can be established now and revoked at a later date, which will qualify you for the METC.

### IRA Charitable Rollovers

For those with an individual retirement account, an IRA charitable rollover is an excellent way to give while offsetting your taxes when taking your distributions. While Congress waived the required minimum distribution for 2020, you may want to consider a charitable gift to reduce your balance when RMDs resume for 2021, reducing your future tax burden.

### Gifts of Appreciated Stock and Property

Gifts of appreciated stock, mutual funds, and property can be transferred to make an impact to the students of MSU Billings. Appreciated assets that are donated will bypass capital gains taxes when given to charity.



[www.msubfoundation.com](http://www.msubfoundation.com)

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