



MSU Billings Foundation & Alumni Media Kit

The Montana State University Billings Foundation & Alumni is an independent, non-profit organization under Internal Revenue Service code 501(c)(3). A volunteer board of trustees, composed of community leaders, guides the foundation in achieving its mission. Our staff is dedicated to achieving the goals of the foundation and to serving and assisting donors, supporters, students, and faculty of Montana State University Billings.

Mission

The Montana State University Billings Foundation & Alumni was founded in 1968 to advance the goals of Montana State University Billings by:

- Establishing lifelong relationships with university students, parents, faculty, alumni, friends, and community partners.
- Creating pathways to success and sustaining them through philanthropy, stewardship, and community engagement.
- Seeking and nurturing innovative partnerships to support the realization of current and emerging university priorities
- Fostering a culture of inclusivity that celebrates diversity on campus and beyond.

Vision

The Montana State University Billings Foundation & Alumni will reduce financial barriers to a quality education, enhance the campus experience, and encourage the growth of Montana State University Billings.

Management

President & CEO Krista Montague oversees 7 employees;
msubfoundation.com/meet-our-staff/

Physical Address

2615 Virginia Lane, Billings, MT 59102

Mailing Address

1500 University Dr., Billings, MT 59101

18

Volunteer trustees who guide the foundation in achieving its mission,
msubfoundation.com/meet-our-board-of-trustees/

54

Years we've proudly served MSU Billings

\$1.8M+

In scholarships disbursed during the 2021-2022 academic year

\$34M

In endowed assets

4,075

Current MSUB student enrollment for Fall 2022

[@MSUBFoundationAlumni](#)
on Facebook

[MSU Billings Foundation & Alumni](#)
on LinkedIn

[@msubalum](#) on Instagram

Outcomes, Inspiration, Achievement

We are helping students cross the finish line

Since 1968, the Montana State University Billings Foundation & Alumni has served the students of Montana State University Billings. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, our purpose is to advance the goals of Montana State University Billings through philanthropy. By establishing community partnerships, nurturing lifelong relationships with alumni, and adhering to a strategic plan which parallels that of our university, we both *fundraise* and *friendraise* for Montana State University Billings and its students.

Stewardship

The many donors who financially support the Montana State University Billings Foundation trust our organization to be good stewards of their dollars. We offer a variety of investment options to align with all philanthropic goals while meeting the current needs of Montana State University Billings. Funds raised support student scholarships, academic programs, campus projects, campus and community outreach, and alumni relations. From one-time donations to endowments which provide support in perpetuity, planned bequests and matched company support, we believe that every gift, large and small, makes a difference.

Scholarships and Capital Campaigns

Montana State University Billings has been providing a quality education to the students of central and eastern Montana since 1927. In order to remain a leading university in the Western United States, this institution must offer a competitive value, academic excellence, and updated facilities. Sometimes those needs require additional resources, which the Montana State University Billings Foundation & Alumni assists to raise with capital campaigns. In recent years, the Opportunity Campaign, the People, Pride & Promise Campaign, and the Yellowstone Science and Health Building Campaign have raised significant dollars for student scholarships and facility improvements which continue a longstanding tradition of access and excellence at Montana State University Billings.

Their success is our success

The MSU Billings Foundation & Alumni measures success not by the number of students enrolled, but by how well we support those students through metrics-proven scholarships, in-demand program offerings, and innovative teaching that positions MSU Billings students as top choices in a competitive job market and evolving global community. Those students will go on to join the more than 35,500 Montana State University Billings alumni in the United States, and in 37 countries worldwide. The patients, customers, clients, athletes, peers and pupils whose lives our alumni touch after graduation are a direct reflection of the work we do.



Alumni Association

The MSU Billings Alumni Association has served Montana State University Billings alumni since the inaugural class of 1928 graduated from Eastern Montana State Normal School, the university's original name. For the following nine decades, one thing has stayed the same — graduates become alumni who are Yellowjackets forever.

In 2017, the Alumni Association returned to its roots, resuming operations under the Montana State University Billings Foundation & Alumni. As an extension of the 501(c)(3) organization, the Alumni Association serves as a liaison between the university and its vast network of alumni.

History

The first alumni function took place on June 1, 1928 for a class of only 26, and it began a tradition of celebrating the moment students become alumni after graduation. For 16 years, average university enrollment was 175 students seeking a two-year elementary teaching certificate. Montana State University Billings now enrolls more than 4,000 students in five colleges, offering certificates, and associate's, bachelor's and master's degrees.

Alumni Advisory Board

The institution has a need for the ongoing existence of the Alumni Association for the following purposes: (a) communication, (b) service to and promotion of the University, (c) cooperation with the MSU Billings Foundation & Alumni, and (d) building affinity to the University.

41

Countries are home to MSUB alumni

560

Alumni donated in 2021-2022

\$527,653

Total contributions from alumni in 2021-2022

101

First time alumni donors in 2021-2022

800+

Alumni-owned businesses



A graphic featuring ten circular portraits of the Alumni Advisory Board members, arranged in two rows of five. Each portrait is accompanied by the member's name, title, and class year(s) in a stylized font. The background is a dark blue gradient.

ALUMNI ADVISORY BOARD

Name	Title	Class Year(s)
Sarah Gunn	Chair	CLASS OF '17
Hannah Olson	Past Chair	CLASS OF '16 & '20
Josey Smiedala		CLASS OF '19 & '21
Rob Pedersen		CLASS OF '90
Kim Collins		CLASS OF '03 & '08
Sean Phelps		CLASS OF '87 & '01
Alisha Breen		CLASS OF '18
Jenna Buxsch		CLASS OF '15
Mandi Graham		CLASS OF '12
Mary McClarty		CLASS OF '85

WELCOME TO THE CLUB!

Although alumni go on to touch the lives of their patients, customers, clients, athletes, peers and pupils in their careers, they will always be connected to their *alma mater* — or nurturing mother — no matter where they go.

Outstanding Alumni Awards

More than 200 MSU Billings and Eastern Montana College graduates have been recognized with Outstanding Alumni Awards since the first ceremony in 1982. We are proud to honor these exceptional members of the Yellowjacket family. The 2022 Outstanding Alumni Awards celebration honored alumni and friends who have made exceptional contributions to society, their profession, and their alma mater. Held April 23, 2022, at the Northern Hotel, Billings, Montana, awards in five categories were presented to Julie Seedhouse, Alex Tyson, Pryor Orser, Dave Cobb, Kassie Runsabove, Stephanie Cowen, and John & Claudia Decker.

Alumni Association Scholarships

In 1983, the Alumni Association established the Alumni Association Scholarship to provide scholarship assistance to outstanding students who are related to alumni of Montana State University Billings. Alumni committee members select recipients, and two \$1,000 awards were disbursed in the 2021-2022 academic year to the following recipients: Peyton Romero and Lindsey Schell.



PCI Oral History Project

MSU Billings Foundation & Alumni partnered with Publishing Concepts LP (PCI) to gather stories and memories that bring the Yellowjacket experience to life. Share your reflections, and help us preserve MSUB's history for generations to come.

Visit msubfoundation.com/alumni/oral-history-faq/ for more information.



4,200+
respondents



97.3%
recommend
others to call in



3,100+
stories collected

About the President & CEO Krista Montague



Krista Montague has been serving as the President & CEO since December 2021. Montague has a great deal of prior experience and holds a bachelor's and master's degree in business administration from MSU Billings in addition to recently earning her Montana real estate license. She lives in Billings with her husband Brent and has two daughters, Shayla and Allie. Montague oversees the foundation's staff under the supervision of its board of trustees.

Krista is an accomplished member of the Billings community, and has added encouragement to the scholarships and other financial support systems that can be provided by the MSUB Foundation & Alumni. She knows that the ability to provide financial assistance to students at MSUB can be a paradigm changer for their lives, and she is able to recognize what this can mean for the future of the Billings community. Since arriving, she has made positive strides, providing stability and structure during the transition in leadership. She has helped secure multiple gifts and donations in her short time and the Board of Trustees is confident in her ability to continue to grow the organization.

During Montague's time as MSUB's athletic director, she oversaw a budget that relied heavy on fundraising to help support 16 varsity sports. She also oversaw the completion of a seven-year partnership with Avitus Group, securing the naming rights of MSUB's softball field through 2024. The Annual Yellowjacket Athletics Dinner Auction and Golf Tournament saw great success under Montague's leadership, with proceeds benefitting scholarships for student-athletes. Montague was also successful in negotiating and helping raise funds to expand and improve the MSUB weight room, soccer field, team locker rooms, and fitness center. Her contribution to the community includes service to various national, state, and local organizations.

"It is important to support MSUB to pay it forward. We need to help support students, just like someone supported us during our time."

- Krista Montague



Tracy McLuskie

Jon Egeland



Nick Schmidt

Jeff Clarke



Abby Moerkerke

Sarah Haight



Kelly Schrock