



# MONTANA TECH WEEKLY UPDATE

**November 4, 2024**

## **IN THIS EDITION**

2024 Internship Photo Contest Winners

Distance Education Week

Restoration Seminar

Thank you to our Veterans

First Generation Panel Discussion

First Generation Survey

Upcoming Career Services Employer Events

Bowl for Kids Sake

Mining City Christmas

First Tech Challenge Robotics Qualifier

Donate to the Chelsea Bailey Animal Shelter

Toys for Tots Donations

New my.mtech.edu Coming: January 6, 2025

FIRST Tech Challenge Robotics Qualifier

## **UPCOMING CAMPUS EVENTS**

**11/04:** Restoration Seminar (4:00 pm, CBB 101 or [Zoom](#) (Meeting ID: 844 6664 6479 Passcode: 270635)

**11/05:** Pilates w/Katie Hailer (12:00 pm-1:00 pm, HPER 140)

**11/07:** Weights w/Blaine Berrington (12:00 pm, HPER 140)  
First Generation Day Panel (2:00 pm, Auditorium)  
WBB v Dickinson (5:30 pm, HPER)

**11/08:** Mining Team Banquet (5:00 pm, Butte Depot)  
MBB vs Northwest (7:00 pm, HPER)

**11/09:** Football vs Northern (1:00 pm, Alumni Coliseum)  
MBB vs Jamestown (7:00 pm, HPER)

**11/11:** Veteran's Day ([Holiday](#))

**11/12:** Pilates w/Katie Hailer (12:00 pm, HPER 140)

**11/14:** Weights w/Blaine Berrington (12:00 pm, HPER 140)  
WBB v Mayville State (6:00 pm, HPER)

**11/15:** Tech Day  
MBB v California Maritime (7:00 pm, HPER)

**11/16:** Football vs Carroll (1:00 pm, Alumni Coliseum)  
MBB v Lewis-Clark State (7:00 pm, HPER)

**11/19:** Pilates w/Katie Hailer (12:00 pm, HPER 140)

**11/21:** Weights w/Blaine Berrington (12:00 pm, HPER 140)

**11/21-22:** Board of Regents (Bozeman)

**11/22:** Tech Day

Required Research Office  
Training

**11/22-23:** FIRST Tech Challenge Robotics Qualifier

Software Center

**11/23:** WBB v Northwest (6:00 pm, HPER)

Course Evaluation Changes

**11/26:** Pilates w/Katie Hailer (12:00 pm, HPER 140)

Changing Your Password

**11/27:** Wellness Wednesday (2-3, email  
[ccrooker1@mtech.edu](mailto:ccrooker1@mtech.edu))

Montana Tech Login  
Changes

**11/28:** Thanksgiving (Holiday)  
Weights (CANCELED)

**11/29:** MBB v University of Maine-Fort Kent (7:00 pm, HPER)



## 2024 INTERNSHIP PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

Career Services is thrilled to announce the winners of our annual Internship Photo Contest! Thank you to everyone who participated and shared your incredible experiences. We received so many amazing entries, and with all your votes, the results are in! Check out the [winners](#).



## DISTANCE EDUCATION WEEK

Distance Education Week is **November 4-8**, and we are going to focus on getting ready because CANVAS IS COMING!!

- **Monday, November 4:** ENGR 205 will be open ALL DAY for walk-in help with any questions you might have with your LMS. No registration necessary.
- **Wednesday, November 6** from 2:00 pm to 3:00 p.m. in Main Hall 103: Gain valuable insights into how Canvas has shaped the learning journey of five students. Don't miss this chance to learn firsthand tips and perspectives on Canvas. Please RSVP using this [online Registration form](#)!
- **Thursday, November 7** from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm in the Copper Lounge: Canvas Town Hall discussion of all that is Canvas, the Center for Academic Innovation, and IT. No registration necessary.



## RESTORATION SEMINAR

You are invited to attend the next Restoration Seminar on **November 6** at 4:00 pm. Taleigh Adrian, with Montana Tech, will present “*Edge Effects on Plant Distribution and Reproductive Success in an Intermontane Grassland Landscape Fragmented by Mining.*”

Habitat fragmentation poses a significant threat to vegetation biodiversity and habitat connectivity. The resulting increase in edge habitat from fragmentation can alter environmental conditions and ecological processes. This study examines the influence of edge effects on plant reproductive fitness, plant community composition, and plant distribution in a fragmented intermontane grassland landscape located in the West Side Soils Operable Unit in Butte Montana. This site, characterized by fragmentation resulting from mining impacts and recreation, is representative of a habitat type commonly affected by human activities in the Northern Rockies. Field surveys were conducted to collect data on plant species presence, cover, and spatial distribution within a network of 116 habitat fragments. This study found several impacts due to edge effects. These findings provide valuable insights into the ecological dynamics of fragmented grassland landscapes and can inform restoration and conservation strategies aimed at mitigating the negative impacts of habitat fragmentation by mining on plant diversity and ecosystem function.

The presentation will take place in CBB 101 or via [Zoom](#) (Meeting ID: 844 6664 6479 Passcode: 270635).



## THANK YOU TO OUR VETERANS

As we approach Veterans Day, we want to take a moment to express our sincere gratitude to all veterans for their brave and selfless service to our country. Your dedication and sacrifice do not go unnoticed, and we are truly thankful for everything you have done to protect our freedoms and uphold our values.

In celebration of this special day, we are pleased to offer a free meal during the week of **November 4th-8th** at the Marcus Daly Dining Hall and the Highlands Cafeteria for all of our veterans, active-duty service members and reservists including students, faculty, and staff. Please stop by Enrollment Services or the front desk at Highlands to pick up a meal voucher. We invite everyone to join us

in honoring our veterans in appreciation of their service. Thank you for the commitment and sacrifices you have made!

Please let us know if there is any more information you need!

Thank you,  
Veterans Task Force



### FIRST GENERATION PANEL DISCUSSION

The Institute for Educational Opportunities will be hosting a panel discussion on **November 7** at 2:00 pm in the Library Auditorium to commemorate national First-Generation Day. The panel participants are first-generation college graduates, Montana Tech alumni, and influential members of the Butte community. They are Melissa Swanson, a physical therapist at Intermountain Health; Leesla Jonart, risk management/contract administrator at Pioneer Technical; and Paul Babb, community relations manager at NorthWestern Energy. All are invited to attend.



### ARE YOU FIRST GENERATION PROUD? TAKE THIS SURVEY TO FIND OUT!

In our run up to this year's national First Generation Day Celebration on **November 7th**, Montana Tech and TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) are asking all faculty, staff, and students to complete this [short survey](#) to help us better serve the first generation population of Montana Tech. TRIO SSS will draw prizes for faculty/staff and one for students who participate in this two-question survey. All participants who are first generation will also receive a Montana Tech "1st Generation PROUD" sticker.

Montana Tech and the Institute for Educational Opportunities are dedicated to creating a culture of support for first generation students, staff, and faculty at Montana Tech and share the stories of those who have taken the journey before them.



## UPCOMING CAREER SERVICES EMPLOYER EVENTS

Career Services is working with employers to help find students jobs. We have arranged for several to come to campus. Go to DiggerRecruiting-DR 2.0 and register for any of the following upcoming events.

**11/12:** Information Session with NorthWestern Energy's Substation and Relay Engineering Department (7:00 pm, URC Poore Room). Recommended major: Electrical Engineering. Pizza and drinks will be provided.



## BOWL FOR KIDS SAKE

Staff Senate is once again participating in this year's Bowl for Kids' Sake. We will be bowling on **November 16** at 5:00 pm at Star Lanes. We have 12 team members including staff senators and others from the Montana Tech family joining us this year. The theme for this year is "Woodstock." Each team member is asked to raise \$150, all funds raised through this event are used to help children in our community! If you are interested in making a pledge, reach out to any of the team members: Mike Haldane (Team Captain), Jenna Snow, Ice Demus, Katie Bigbee, Barb Cass, Quinn Kendall, Casandra Welch, Mark Armstrong, Laurie Vandel, Kinsley Rafish, Kade Kuder and his wife Maria Kuder. Thank you for your support.



## MINING CITY CHRISTMAS

If your department or club would like to adopt a family through Mining City Christmas, please contact Laurie Vandel at the Campus Store by **November 15**.



## FIRST TECH CHALLENGE ROBOTICS QUALIFIER

On **November 22 and 23**, Montana Tech will be hosting the FIRST Tech Challenge Robotics Qualifier. The event needs volunteers to help judge, set up, take down, referee, queue etc. To volunteer, please email [bhill@mtech.edu](mailto:bhill@mtech.edu).



### **DONATE TO THE CHELSEA BAILEY ANIMAL SHELTER**

Support the Chelsea Bailey Animal Shelter this season by dropping off a donation to the Campus Store. Ideas include pet food, toys, blankets, etc. Please make your donations no later than **December 13**.



### **TOYS FOR TOTS DONATIONS**

Toys for Tots donations are now being collected by the Campus Store. New, unwrapped toys only. Shop for ages 0–18. They stress the need for items for 8–18 year olds.



### **NEW MY.MTECH.EDU COMING - JANUARY 6, 2025**

Please help us test the usability of our new version of my.mtech.edu (Ellucian Experience). We welcome your feedback.

To see the new version, please visit this site:

<https://experience.elluciancloud.com/m459/>

To compare the two versions, you can visit the current site here:

<https://my.mtech.edu>

The new version is expected to roll out to all users January 6, 2025.

Please send your comments to [jsimon@mtech.edu](mailto:jsimon@mtech.edu)



### **REQUIRED RESEARCH OFFICE TRAINING**

Faculty, Staff, & Students who participate in, or who are mentoring research at Montana Tech, are **required** to take RCR training prior to participating in any research activities.

RCR training is administered thru CITI and must be updated every 3 years.

Faculty and Staff are responsible for making certain that any students who are working on any research have RCR Training prior to participating in research activities.

For questions on RCR training and instructions for accessing CITI contact [grants@mtech.edu](mailto:grants@mtech.edu).



## SOFTWARE CENTER

In an effort to standardize the way we manage and deliver our software; the Montana Tech IT Department will now be providing software installations via Software Center.

Software Center will allow you to install MTech supported applications that you normally use without having to worry about administrative rights, or where to locate the software. The Software Center application has been pushed out to Montana Tech managed computers. Use the Search feature to find and access Software Center from your MTech PC.

**Please be sure to reboot your PC at your earliest convenience to ensure your computer gets the install and latest updates.**

In honor of Cybersecurity Awareness month, the IT Department encourages you to install **KeePass**, an easy to use and supported password manager that can be installed (and automatically updated) from Software Center.

Please see the following link for more information about the use of strong passwords:

<https://www.cisa.gov/secure-our-world/use-strong-passwords>

Contact the ITHelpdesk for more.



## COURSE EVALUATION CHANGES

The Online Course Evaluation method is now the default method for conducting course evaluations.

Previously if you wanted to have your course evaluation conducted via paper, you did not need to perform any action as that was the default. **This year the process has changed.**

Instead of opting in for the online course evaluation, you will need to opt out if you prefer to have your course evaluation conducted via the paper method. Directions are listed below.

**If you prefer the online method no action is necessary.**

**If you want to conduct your evaluation via paper, you will need to navigate to <https://webapps.mtech.edu/surveys> and delete your course from the list.**

If you need further assistance, please contact our IT Helpdesk at 496-4244.



## **CHANGING YOUR PASSWORD**

With the Holiday season fast approaching, Information Technology would like to remind you to reset your password before the break. Passwords expire yearly, so if you do not reset your password prior to the break, you may return to an expired password.

For directions on how to reset your password, navigate to kb.mtech.edu and search for 'password reset'. If you need further assistance, please contact our IT Helpdesk at 496-4244.



## **MONTANA TECH LOGIN CHANGES**

As noted in a previous message, Montana Tech is transitioning from Shibboleth/DUO to Microsoft Authentication/MFA in order to bring multi-factor authentication (MFA) to all users in the most cost-effective manner.

We are now moving to the next phase in this project: PREPARATION.



**Important Action Required:** Please sign up for Microsoft MFA **before November 6**. This will ensure continued access to your account once the transition is complete. Follow [the guide available online](#).

### **What to Expect:**

On November 6, the traditional login process (username/password + DUO MFA) will be replaced with Microsoft prompts (email/password + Microsoft MFA).

- On November 6, the traditional login process (username/password + DUO MFA) will be replaced with Microsoft prompts (email/password + Microsoft MFA).
- When logging into Moodle, you will still see the same Shibboleth prompts you did previously – this is expected. When you see these prompts, provide your username and password as you always have in the past.
- **VPN users will continue to use the DUO app.**

### **Seamless Sign-On:**

- During the preparation phase, you may not be prompted for (username/password + DUO MFA) if you're already logged in on campus. This is because Microsoft uses your desktop credentials.
- If you prefer DUO MFA or need it for highly sensitive data:
  - Turn off third-party cookies (Firefox does this by default)
  - Contact IT to be added to the group already using Microsoft MFA. This option will prompt you for your email address, then username/password + DUO MFA + Microsoft MFA.

For more information on Microsoft seamless sign-on, see [our knowledgebase article](#).

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

1. **How can I tell if I've already signed up for Microsoft multi-factor authentication?**
  - a. Open a browser (Firefox, Edge or Chrome)
  - b. Navigate to [www.mtech.edu](http://www.mtech.edu)
  - c. Click on Email
  - d. Select your picture or initials in the upper right-hand corner.
  - e. Click "View account."

- f. Select update on “Security Info.”
  - g. **Ensure you have a minimum of two methods listed.** If not, choose “Add sign-in method” to add another method. This will ensure that if one option does not work for you, you have a backup.
2. **When will the transition be complete (Go Live Date)?**
- a. The transition is expected to be complete November 6. At this time, the traditional Shibboleth prompt for username/password and the DUO multi-factor authentication prompt will be replaced with the Microsoft prompts for your email address, password and multi-factor authentication.
3. **On November 6, what happens if I haven’t signed up for Microsoft multi-factor authentication?**
- a. You will be prompted to set up Microsoft multi-factor authentication at that time and will not be able to proceed until this step has been completed. **Which means – if you are attempting to teach a class and you haven’t set this up previously, you will not have access and your class may be on hold until you have completed the required setup process.**

If you have any questions or would like assistance, please contact the IT Help Desk at 406.496.4244.

