

MONTANA TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

COMMENCEMENT



Saturday, May 9, 2026

Montana Tech HPER | Butte, MT

PROGRAM OF COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

PLATFORM PARTY

Dr. Johnny MacLean, *Chancellor*

Dr. Tim Elgren, *Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs/Provost*

Dr. Katie Hailer, *Vice Chancellor for Research/Dean of the Graduate School*

Dr. Michele Hardy, *Dean of the College of Letters, Sciences & Professional Studies*

Dr. Jack Skinner, *Dean of the Lance College of Mines & Engineering*

Tammy Burke, *Dean of Highlands College*

Dr. Joe Cooper, *Vice Provost for Student Success & Dean of Students*

Jeff Southworth, *Regent, Montana University System Board of Regents*

Leslie Dickerson, *Executive Director of Admissions & Enrollment*

Dr. Hannah McLaughlin, *Gynecologic Oncologist, Compass Oncology*

Dave Lesar, *Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, Superior Energy*

Ryan Lance, *Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, ConocoPhillips*

Mina Atuguba, *Geological Engineering Graduate Student*

Matthew Ashcraft, *Exercise & Health Science Student*

The audience is requested to stand for the processional and remain standing for the singing of the national anthem.

"Pomp and Circumstance"

Written by Edward Elgar

"The Star-Spangled Banner"

Written by Francis Scott Key

Performed by Heather Lingle

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Johnny MacLean

REMARKS FROM THE STUDENT BODY

Morning Ceremony

Matthew Ashcraft '26

B.S. Exercise & Health Science

Afternoon Ceremony

Mina Atuguba '26

M.S. Geological Engineering

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Dr. Hannah McLaughlin '13

PRESENTATION AND CONFERRAL OF HONORARY DOCTORATES

David J. Lesar, Honorary Doctor of Science

Ryan M. Lance, Honorary Doctor of Science

PRESENTATION AND CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

Graduate School

Dr. Katie Hailer

College of Letters, Sciences & Professional Studies

Dr. Michele Hardy

Lance College of Mines & Engineering

Dr. Jack Skinner

Highlands College

Tammy Burke

The audience is requested to stand for the recessional.

"Crown Imperial: A Coronation March"

Written by William Walton



Following the recessional, we warmly invite you to a celebratory reception at the Student Success Center. It's a wonderful opportunity for families and friends to gather, share a hug, and congratulate their new graduates!

STUDENT AWARDS

Bachelor of Science Valedictorians

Lily Kemmer, *Environmental Engineering*

Dakota James, *Mechanical Engineering*

Jakob Nielsen, *Mechanical Engineering*

Liv Wangerin, *Exercise & Health Science*

Mia Wohlgenant, *Exercise & Health Science*

Associate of Applied Science Valedictorian

Justin Riffle, *Computer Networks & Cybersecurity*

Highest Scholastic Standing in Arts & Sciences

Liv Wangerin, *Exercise & Health Science*

Mia Wohlgenant, *Exercise & Health Science*

Chester H. Steele Award

Lily Kemmer, *Environmental Engineering*

Dakota James, *Mechanical Engineering*

Jakob Nielsen, *Mechanical Engineering*

Chester H. Steele Award (Mining)

Ian Pfeffer, *Mining Engineering*

Montana Society of Engineers Gold Medal Award

Jakob Nielsen, *Mechanical Engineering*

Montana Athlete-in-Service Award

Justus Peterson, *Football*

Montana Student Volunteer Award

Hayden Diekhans

Outstanding Leadership in a Student Club Award

Audrie Jensen, *Society of Petroleum Engineers*

Student Club Advisor of the Year

Sebastian Perduss, *Business Guild*

Outstanding Student Department Awards

Taylor Burke, *Biological Sciences*

Tylar Clary, *Business*

Wyatt Cobb, *Chemistry & Geochemistry*

Rachel Hollingsworth, *Civil Engineering*

Zachary Clark, *Civil Engineering*

Quinten Cox, *Computer Science*

Natalka Rolfson, *Electrical Engineering*

Lily Kemmer, *Environmental Engineering*

Mia Wohlgenant, *Exercise & Health Science*

Christopher Langhoff, *Geological Engineering*

Zachary Tierney, *Highlands College - Business & Industry*

Zachary Newton, *Highlands College - Machining & Welding*

Alyssa Peterson, *Highlands College - Radiologic Technology*

Tova Anderson, *Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences*

Emily Martin, *Mathematical Sciences*

Francis Rogers, *Mechanical Engineering*

Daniel Ziesing, *Metallurgical & Materials Engineering*

Ian Pfeffer, *Mining Engineering*

Jordyn Bolton, *Nursing*

Xander Smith, *Petroleum Engineering*

Olivia Stillwagon, *Safety, Health & Industrial Hygiene*

Kallie Hossack, *Writing*

CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES SPRING 2026

GRADUATE SCHOOL

Honorary Doctorate

Ryan Lance
Dave Lesar

Doctor of Philosophy

Doctor of Philosophy Materials Science

Stephen Hanson	Butte, MT
Mitchell Harvey	North Little Rock, AR

Master's Degrees & Graduate Certificates

Master of Science Engineering

Daniel Difort	Missoula, MT	
Cody Skibsted 	Alberton, MT	
Harrison Walund	Spring Creek, NV	Highest Honor

Master of Project Engineering & Management

Daniel Difort	Missoula, MT	
Freddy Duluc	Great Falls, MT	Highest Honor
Harley Hoiles	West Vancouver, Canada	Highest Honor
Cody Skibsted 	Alberton, MT	

Master of Science Ecological Restoration

Carl Leitert	Ashburn, VA	
Karina Nordwald	Rolla, MO	Highest Honor
Kate Smith	Kalispell, MT	Highest Honor

Master of Science Electrical Engineering

Kwabena Amadu	Kumasi, Ghana
Ethan Messner	Fresno, CA

Master of Science Environmental Engineering

Johannes Chandler	Absarokee, MT	
Halle Cogley	Challis, ID	
Felisa Nuamah-Amonoo	Takoradi, Ghana	Highest Honor
Gavin Rahl	Stevensville, MT	Highest Honor
Logan Schuh	Spokane, WA	Highest Honor
Madison Skeel	Butte, MT	

Master of Science General Engineering

Rachel Hollingsworth	Salem, OR	Highest Honor
Kyle Madill	Billings, MT	Highest Honor
Derek Pearse	Post Falls, ID	
Samuel Triepke	Missoula, MT	Highest Honor
Andrew Woods	Inverness, MT	

Master of Science Geological Engineering

Mina Atuguba	Navrongo, Ghana	Highest Honor
Tyler Storey	Butte, MT	

Master of Science Geoscience

Yihuan Gao	Butte, MT	
Josie Grigsby	Missoula, MT	Highest Honor
Ellaine Heneba	Ejisu-Kwasu, Ashanti Region, Ghana	
Jacob Palmer	West Covina, CA	
Marisa Redgrave	Great Falls, MT	
Nicholas Risedorf	Lakewood, CO	Highest Honor
Ariana Rivera Anazco	Loja, Ecuador	
Matthew Vitale	Cherry Hill, NJ	

Master of Science Industrial Hygiene

Jill Alsip	Butte, MT	
Jennifer Asmus	Richland, WA	
Prabhjaap Aulakh	Edmonton, AB	Highest Honor
Hannah Bergquist	Richland, WA	
Brie Birkenbuel	Butte, MT	Highest Honor
Megan Bohlke	Kennewick, WA	
Jaemon Burk	Bozeman, MT	
Blake Burton	Butte, MT	Highest Honor
Charles Carriker	Olympic, WA	
Frank Chavoya	Upland, CA	
Bryan Donnan	Las Vegas, NV	
Hannah Gibbons	Richland, WA	
Shylah James	Sanders, AZ	
Kaitlyn Natelli	Colorado Springs, CO	Highest Honor
Nicholas Nelson	Colorado Springs, CO	Highest Honor
Rylan Signalness 	Fairfield, MT	Highest Honor

Master of Science Interdisciplinary Studies

Casey McConnell	Soldotna, AK	Highest Honor
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Master of Science Materials Science & Engineering

Abigail Clark	Fort Benton, MT	
Emily Maynard	Fairbanks, AK	
Osumanu Musah Mohammed	Assin Fosu, Ghana	

Master of Science Metallurgical & Mineral Processing Engineering

Padmore Amankwah	Wassa Achichire, Ghana
Joel Patton	Butte, MT
Angelica Plenge	Lima, Peru

Master of Science Mining Engineering

Shadrack Nuamah	Wassa Akropong, Ghana	Highest Honor
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Graduate Certificate Extractive Metallurgy

Josue Hernandez Pedroza	Panama City, Panama
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**COLLEGE OF LETTERS, SCIENCES,
& PROFESSIONAL STUDIES**

Bachelor of Applied Science Business

Isaiah Allik	Charlo, MT	
Tel Arthur 	Frenchtown, MT	Honor
Ryan Carroll 	Homer, AK	Honor
Braydon Cetraro 	Butte, MT	Highest Honor
Hayden Diekhans	Geraldine, MT	
Payton Gonser	Great Falls, MT	
Kenzie Hugulet	Whitehall, MT	
Andrew Larson 	Ennis, MT	Honor
Marcus Madrazo	Butte, MT	
Delani Nelson	Rapid City, SD	Honor
Christian Vetter	Butte, MT	
Zachary Young	Queen Creek, AZ	

Bachelor of Science Business & Information Technology

Taylor Bjorkman	Butte, MT	Honor
Havyn Boyd	Butte, MT	
Sevanna Challeen	Butte, MT	Honor
Olivia Clairmont 	Ronan, MT	Honor
Tylar Clary 	Butte, MT	Highest Honor
Cassandra Cooper 	Deer Lodge, MT	Honor
Dylan Duffy	Butte, MT	
Carli Gilman	White Sulphur Springs, MT	
Nicholas Healy	Butte, MT	
Tristen Holt	Helena, MT	Honor
Kenley Leary	Butte, MT	
Dillon MacIwraith	Darby, MT	Honor

Reece Marsh	Helena, MT	
Seth McDaid	Townsend, MT	Honor
Charles McGrath 	Butte, MT	Highest Honor
Joshua Nelson	Butte, MT	
Hannah O'Dell 	Butte, MT	Honor
Kiara Plute 	Butte, MT	Honor
Colt Quinn	Butte, MT	Honor
Samantha Richards 	Butte, MT	Honor
Nicholas Rogers	Great Falls, MT	
Tucker Sobrepeña	Bozeman, MT	
Trey Yates	Colstrip, MT	

Bachelor of Science Biological Sciences

McKinley Beard	Normandy Park, WA	
Taylor Burke	Butte, MT	Highest Honor
Cein Cunningham	Butte, MT	Honor
Tynan Driscoll	Butte, MT	
Amber Hamblen	Darby, MT	Honor
Madison Handley	Missoula, MT	Honor
Sarah Mootry	Dillon, MT	
Cora Pesanti	Anaconda, MT	Highest Honor
Anika Ploeger	Baker, MT	Highest Honor
Jessica Price	Glendive, MT	Honor
Radyn Renn	Helena, MT	Honor
Drake Schlachter	Grass Valley, CA	
Jade Uriarte	Stevensville, MT	
Hadassah Wilson	Darby, MT	Honor
Emma Woods	Fairfield, MT	Highest Honor

Bachelor of Science Chemistry

Wyatt Cobb	Great Falls, MT	Honor
Malia Harris	Anaconda, MT	Highest Honor
Maggie McDowell	Sunray, TX	Honor

Bachelor of Science Data Science

Emily Martin	Florence, MT	Highest Honor
Zachary Noctor	Butte, MT	Highest Honor
Joseph Opitz	Missoula, MT	Honor
Ethan Wimmer	Bozeman, MT	Honor

Bachelor of Science Exercise & Health Science

Matthew Ashcraft 	Silver Star, MT	Honor
Rylee Brackman	Hamilton, MT	Highest Honor
Evan Ceaicovschi 	East Helena, MT	Honor
Mollee Conlan	Butte, MT	Honor
Jaycee Erickson	Saco, MT	Highest Honor
Odin Erickson	Kalispell, MT	
Jillian Gaines	Hanford, CA	
Cynthia Gray	Billings, MT	Honor
Emelia Green	Boise, ID	Honor
Trey Johannes	Columbus, MT	
Emily Knickerbocker	Clancy, MT	Highest Honor
Levi McMahon	Butte, MT	Honor
Lacie Selting	Fairview, MT	Highest Honor
Heather Sholey	Butte, MT	Honor
Philip Snyder	Billings, MT	
Terran Speake	Livingston, MT	Honor
Sawyer Townsend	Darby, MT	Honor
Drew Trotter	Butte, MT	Honor
Liv Wangerin	Plentywood, MT	Highest Honor
Makayla Wicker	Melstone, MT	Highest Honor
Kinnidi Willmore	Claremont, CA	Honor
Mia Wohlgenant	Billings, MT	Highest Honor

Bachelor of Science Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences

Thomas Abbott 	Butte, MT
Camdyn LaRance	Missoula, MT

Bachelor of Science Mathematical Sciences

Mullanie McElroy	Butte, MT	Highest Honor
Joseph Opitz	Missoula, MT	Honor
Cora Tollison	Three Forks, MT	

Bachelor of Science Nursing

Jordyn Bolton 	Butte, MT	Highest Honor
Chaz Bushnell	Helena, MT	Highest Honor
Rainy Carroccia 	Big Timber, MT	Honor
Addison Carver 	Butte, MT	Honor
Maeson Cotter	Laurel, MT	Honor
Kylee Field 	Butte, MT	Highest Honor
Katherine Forrest	Butte, MT	
Jolee Gillis 	Glen, MT	Honor
Nyha Harris	Spring Creek, NV	Honor

Macie Jensen	Three Forks, MT	Honor
Rayna Johnson 	Havre, MT	Highest Honor
Teagan Kennis 	Butte, MT	Highest Honor
Kieyrah Killoy 	Butte, MT	Highest Honor
Haylee Kropp 	Cut Bank, MT	Honor
Jessica McCloskey	Butte, MT	Highest Honor
Carina McCollum	Florence, MT	Highest Honor
Tommijo McGillvray	Big Timber, MT	Honor
Tre McMillan 	Clancy, MT	
Brenna Murnion	Jordan, MT	Honor
Caitlin Olson 	Helena, MT	Highest Honor
Brianna O'Mara	Butte, MT	Honor
Olivia Quinn 	Butte, MT	Highest Honor
Duncan Richardson	Frenchtown, MT	Honor
Cassandra Sampson	Laurel, MT	Highest Honor
Marissa Taylor	Livingston, MT	Highest Honor
Hallieann Thompson	Butte, MT	Honor
Macy Updyke	Edwardsville, IL	Honor
Alexa Walsh 	Butte, MT	Highest Honor
Kelsey Westervelt 	Columbus, MT	Highest Honor
Alex Williams	Baker, MT	Honor

Certificate of Technical Studies Restoration

Tynan Driscoll	Butte, MT
Sarah Mootry	Dillon, MT
Hadassah Wilson	Darby, MT

Certificate of Completion SAP Student Recognition Award

Taylor Bjorkman	Butte, MT
Sevana Challeen	Butte, MT
Olivia Clairmont 	Ronan, MT
Tylar Clary 	Butte, MT
Dylan Duffy	Butte, MT
Carli Gilman	White Sulphur Springs, MT
Kenley Leary	Butte, MT
Hannah O'Dell 	Butte, MT
Kiara Plute 	Butte, MT
Tucker Sobrepeña	Bozeman, MT

LANCE COLLEGE OF MINES & ENGINEERING

Bachelor of Science Civil Engineering

Hannah Anderson	Butte, MT	
Mattias Brand	Bellingham, WA	Honor
Kira Christoferson 	Billings, MT	Highest Honor
Zachary Clark 	Post Falls, ID	Highest Honor
Matthew Dang	Fort Worth, TX	Honor
Hanna Darne 	Missoula, MT	Highest Honor
Joseph Gasvoda	Hardin, MT	Honor
Jacob Gauthier	Park City, MT	Honor
Bella Glossa	Dillon, MT	
Emma Hanson	Billings, MT	Honor
Rachel Hollingsworth	Salem, OR	Honor
Charles Kirgan	Missoula, MT	
Kendra Klapan	Whitehall, MT	
Kyle Lindbloom	Lonetree, CO	
Adolfo Martinez	Roselle, NJ	
Christopher Nelson	Butte, MT	Honor
Parker Pratt	Missoula, MT	
Cael Ricci	Billings, MT	
Mitchell Saunders	Oakley, CA	
Dain Simunovich	Missoula, MT	
Evan Starr 	Deer Lodge, MT	Highest Honor
Dustin Turner	Kalispell, MT	
Benjamin Zerr	Corvallis, OR	Highest Honor

Bachelor of Science Computer Science

Avrey Coombe	Whitehall, MT	
Jason Decker	Butte, MT	Highest Honor
Miller DeMark	Caldwell, ID	
Luke McAlpine	Brainerd, MN	
Donald Summers	Billings, MT	Honor
Parker Weber	New Ipswich, NH	Highest Honor
Rider Willis	Butte, MT	

Bachelor of Science Cybersecurity & Network Administration

Blake Donsbach 	Butte, MT	
Finn Garren	Idaho Falls, ID	Honor
Konnor Gregerson	Laurel, MT	Honor

Kyson Moran	Laurel, MT	Highest Honor
Tristan Wilkerson	Joliet, MT	Highest Honor

Bachelor of Science Construction Management

Chase Anderson	Columbus, MT	
Kellen Colliflower	Rocky Boy, MT	Honor
Brayden Keane	Butte, MT	Honor
Mayson Moore	Kalispell, MT	
Carter Pendergrass	Roy, MT	Honor
Bryce Shields	Helena, MT	Honor

Bachelor of Science Electrical Engineering

Garrett Dostal	Billings, MT	
Martin McGrath 	Trumbull, CT	Highest Honor
Nataika Rolfson	Billings, MT	Honor
Jasper Ueland	Butte, MT	

Bachelor of Science Environmental Engineering

Emma Harrison	Fruita, CO	
Gregory Johnson	Anaconda, MT	
Lily Kemmer 	Colstrip, MT	Highest Honor
Sean McGowan	Highwood, MT	Honor
Gannon Rehn	Spokane, WA	Honor
Lucas Russell	Spokane, WA	Honor
Nolan Samples	Butte, MT	

Bachelor of Science Geological Engineering

Gabriel Kruzich	Kalispell, MT	
Christopher Langhoff	Glen Ellen, CA	
Garrett Ledger	Shepherd, MT	
Grant Shedd	Flower Mound, TX	Honor

Bachelor of Science Mechanical Engineering

Jadon Bingham	Walla Walla, WA	
Quin Costin	Billings, MT	Honor
Ruff Elton	Roberts, MT	
Logan Ette	Belgrade, MT	
Braeden Guse 	Bigfork, MT	Highest Honor
Beau Haeker 	Billings, MT	Highest Honor
Dakota James 	Salmon, ID	Highest Honor
Alyssa Jany	Frederick, CO	Honor
Kennedy Johnson	Anaconda, MT	
Robert Keasey	Redmond, WA	

Colby Lalone	Orting, WA	Honor
Seth Leitheiser	Butte, MT	
Jaden Lewis 	Palmer, AK	Highest Honor
Stephen McAfee	Missoula, MT	Honor
Matthew Middleton	Worden, MT	
Andrew Mioduchowski	Midland, TX	Honor
Jakob Nielsen 	Butte, MT	Highest Honor
Shaylin Peterson	La Quinta, CA	Honor
Raelynn Ramsey	Powell, WY	Honor
Francis Rogers	Powell, WY	Honor
Holter Santos 	Dillon, MT	Highest Honor
Riley Scherer 	Billings, MT	Highest Honor
Bryan Schmidlin 	Dillon, MT	Highest Honor
Travis Schroeder 	Butte, MT	Honor
Ryan Schulze	Trabuco Canyon, CA	Honor
Aidan Scott 	Greenacres, WA	Highest Honor
Adrian Tittle 	Bremerton, WA	Highest Honor
Daniel Topp 	Kalispell, MT	
Sneha Vadiraja Sudhakar	Butte, MT	Honor
Conner Vezina 	Dillon, MT	Highest Honor
Zachary Worrying 	Mosinee, WI	Highest Honor

Bachelor of Science Metallurgical & Materials Engineering

Cooper Cervelli 	Nine Mile Falls, WA	Highest Honor
Tucker Christiansen	Palmer, AK	Honor
Zachary Landfair	Falcon, CO	
Joe Love	Houston, TX	Honor
Gabriel Marquis 	Colstrip, MT	Highest Honor
Ethan Mishler 	Fort Shaw, MT	Honor
Daniel Ziesing	Hailey, ID	Honor

Bachelor of Science Mining Engineering

Christopher Collings	Crowsnest Pas, AB, CAN	Honor
Marshall Cornwall	Hunters, WA	
Nathan Haglin	Wilbur, WA	
Jakob Keller	East Helena, MT	
Jace Maynard	Lund, NV	
Ian Pfeffer	Rawlins, WY	Highest Honor
Andrew Savoy	Anaconda, MT	
Nicholas Warman	Dartmouth, NS, Canada	
Cullen Younker	Burr Ridge, IL	

Bachelor of Science Occupational Safety & Health

Abby Biastoch	Butte, MT	Honor
Kaeden Daniels	Columbus, MT	Honor
Cooper Hofer	Savage, MT	Honor
Taylor Jones	Willow Creek, MT	Honor
Morgan McClernan	Butte, MT	Honor
Olivia Stillwagon	Butte, MT	
Layton Tucek	Grass Range, MT	Highest Honor
Ashley Vega	Butte, MT	
Liamm Villasenor	Anaconda, MT	Honor

Bachelor of Science Petroleum Engineering

Connor Chalmers	Missoula, MT	
Claude Mayoh	Yaounde, Cameroon	Highest Honor
Xander Smith	Newberg, OR	Honor

Bachelor of Science Software Engineering

Quinten Cox	Soldotna, AK	
Hayden Pride	Queen Valley, AZ	Honor
Nicholas Steilman	Butte, MT	

Certificate of Technical Studies, Unmanned Aerial Systems

Daniel Difort	Missoula, MT
Cody Skibsted 	Alberton, MT

HIGHLANDS COLLEGE

Associate of Applied Science Automotive Technology

Chase Brown	Dillon, MT	Honor
Dana Childs	Butte, MT	Highest Honor
Enzo Corean	Grass Range, MT	Highest Honor
Payton Ehmann	Darby, MT	
Joshua Gedney	Missoula, MT	Honor
Edward Kazmierczak	Butte, MT	
Joshua Merrick	Butte, MT	Highest Honor
Lynette Nix	Alberton, MT	Honor
George Ramirez	The Dalles, OR	Honor
Colin Sampson	Anaconda, MT	

Associate of Applied Science Civil Engineering Technology

Ethan Elam	Missoula, MT	Highest Honor
Michael Howell	Helena, MT	
Connor O'Brien	Anaconda, MT	Highest Honor

Associate of Applied Science Computer Networks & Cybersecurity

Justin Riffle	Kalispell, MT	Highest Honor
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Associate of Applied Science Construction Technology-Carpentry

Dylan Chisholm	Helena, MT	
Mylee Crowley	Butte, MT	Honor
Jonathan Highfill	Belt, MT	
Izak Longcake	Helena, MT	
Denali Pflug	Anaconda, MT	
Zachary Tierney	Butte, MT	

Associate of Applied Science Machining Technology

Torsten Anderson	Butte, MT	
Bridger Birdeau	Missoula, MT	Honor
Colton Burk	Butte, MT	Honor
Ryan Muff	Cortez, CO	
Tristan Sudborough	Butte, MT	Honor

Associate of Applied Science Metals Fabrication

Nathan Esplin	Billings, MT	
Justus Peterson	Dillon, MT	
Dustin Ploof	Winifred, MT	Honor
Benjamin Steine 	Butte, MT	Highest Honor

Associate of Applied Science Mining Technology

Jordan Artis	Great Falls, MT	
Skyler Warner	Middleburg, VA	

Associate of Applied Science Web Development & Administration

Donald Johnston	Dillon, MT	
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Associate of Applied Science Welding Technology

Jackson Aubert	Colville, MT	Honor
Noah Eney	Cut Bank, MT	
Tel Holland	Dillon, MT	Honor
Zachary Newton	Great Falls, MT	Honor
Michael Pavez	Riverside, CA	
Tawni Schmauch	Dillon, MT	Highest Honor
Tyler Stodden	Butte, MT	Honor
Gavin Trudgeon	Butte, MT	Highest Honor
Colin Wade	Bigfork, MT	Highest Honor

Associate of Science

Trent Billmayer	Hogeland, MT	
Maesy Bummer	Laurel, MT	
Grace Gransbery	Butte, MT	Honor
Hailey Skeel	Butte, MT	Honor
Taylor Sullivan	Butte, MT	
Addison Ulrich	Malta, MT	Highest Honor
Alexander VanArsdall	Ione, WA	
Shianne Woyak	Philipsburg, MT	Highest Honor

Certificate of Applied Science Automotive Technology

Mackenzie Candelaria	Bozeman, MT
Trenton Harrison	Butte, MT

Certificate of Applied Science Machining Technology

Justus Peterson	Dillon, MT
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Certificate of Applied Science Pre-Apprentice Line Program

Cooper Anderson	Arvada, CO
Lane Armstrong	Kalispell, MT
Zachary Arndorfer	Tigard, OR
Derek Averyt	Butte, MT
Taylor Brothers	Hamilton, MT
Hans Bumgarner	Belt, MT
Charles Butikofer	Butte, MT
Colt Calahan	Butte, MT
Blake Carlson	Butte, MT
Calvin Dalgetty	Cashmere, WA
Jaxon DeWitz	Butte, MT
Evan Driear	Butte, MT
Tyler Evans	White Sulphur Springs, MT
Byron Ewing	Lustre, MT
Dakota Felton	Port Angeles, WA
Tristan Fladager	Scobey, MT
Caden Flick	Butte, MT
Colby Garland	Butte, MT
Garett Harper	Park City, MT
Cody Hiller	Ryegate, MT
Steven Hofstad	Bozeman, MT
Jackson Horton	Helena, MT
Aiden Johnston	Corvallis, MT
Tyson Labus 	Butte, MT

Blane Olson
Brycen Osborn
Samuel Plummer
Carson Rhoades
Casey Richey
Teegan Riddle
Reid Ruff
Tyce Schaible
Kobe Shields
Landon Shoemake
Aidon Songstad
John Stephenson
Mahkia Tatsey
Paul Thurston
Nathaniel Todd
Tyler Totten
Reilly Toye
Isaac Umphrey
Waylon Vigil
Tegan Walker
Elijah Warden
Levi Wilson
Aaron Youngblom

Kalispell, MT
Elizabeth, CO
Kalispell, MT
Stevensville, MT
Butte, MT
Lincoln, MT
Lewistown, MT
Joliet, MT
Dillon, MT
Butte, MT
Joliet, MT
Helena, MT
Butte, MT
Tensleep, WY
Greenfield, TN
Eureka, MT
Missoula, MT
St. Ignatius, MT
Buffalo, WY
St. Mary, MT
Fairfield, MT
Whitefish, MT
Butte, MT

Certificate of Applied Science Welding Technology

Jadyn Bomar	Anaconda, MT
Shane Gilliland	Winnemucca, NV
Valerie Kopec	Stuyvesant, NY

Certificate of Technical Studies Land Surveying

Michael Howell	Helena, MT
Connor O'Brien	Anaconda, MT

Certificate of Completion Professional Landman

Carli Gilman	White Sulphur Springs, MT
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Notes Veterans and/or Active Duty Members 

Notes Honors Society 

STUDENT SPEAKERS



Matthew Ashcraft

Exercise & Health Science Student

Matthew Ashcraft, a native of Silver Star, Montana, was raised on his family ranch, where he learned the values of hard work and resilience that have guided him ever since. He is a combat veteran of the United States Army's 101st Airborne Division and former president and co-founder of the Veterans Association at Montana Tech, through which he worked to support fellow student veterans. After earning his bachelor's degree in Exercise and Health Sciences, Mr. Ashcraft will pursue his Doctor of Chiropractic at the Southern California University of Health Sciences, seeking to carry forward a life of service by helping people heal, move, and live with the same strength and purpose that has guided his own journey.



Mina Chantelle Wepiah Atuguba

Geological Engineering Graduate Student

Mina Chantelle Wepiah Atuguba, from Navrongo, Ghana, is a master's candidate in Geological Engineering at Montana Technological University. A proud alumna of Achimota School, she earned her BSc in Geological Engineering from the University of Mines and Technology, Tarkwa, Ghana. Her journey reflects a deep commitment to academic excellence, leadership, and community, with interests in geotechnical engineering, underground mapping, and innovative technologies in mining. Mina is honored to represent the Montana Tech student body at this year's commencement and continues to pursue meaningful impact through engineering and innovation

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER



Dr. Hannah (Dysinger) McLaughlin '13

B.S. in Chemistry

A 2013 graduate of Montana Tech with a B.S. in Chemistry, Dr. Hannah (Dysinger) McLaughlin was a standout student-leader. During her time on campus, she participated in the Honors Program, led the Chemistry Club, ran club cross country, and served as the vice president of the Associated Students of Montana Tech (ASMT).

Following her undergraduate success, she attended the University of Washington's WWAMI program, earning her medical degree in 2018. She completed her residency in obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Utah, followed by a prestigious fellowship in gynecologic oncology at the University of Michigan.

Today, Dr. McLaughlin is a gynecologic oncologist with Compass Oncology in Portland, Oregon, where she specializes in cancer surgery, chemotherapy, and advanced cancer-directed treatments. Outside of her clinical practice, she enjoys reading, skiing, hiking, and adventures with her husband and two children.

HONORARY DOCTORATE AWARDEES



David J. Lesar

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Superior Energy

David J. Lesar is currently the Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Superior Energy, joining the company in August 2024. Superior Energy operates in approximately 47 countries around the world, providing drilling and completion technologies to oil and gas companies.

Before joining Superior Energy, he was the President and Chief Executive Officer of CenterPoint Energy, the largest Texas-based public electric and gas utility, from July 2020 until his retirement in January 2024. He also served as Chairman of the Board's Business Review and Evaluation Committee.

He served as director and interim CEO of Health Care Service Corporation (HCSC) through June 2020. HCSC is the largest private health insurer in the US and owns, among other businesses, the Blue Cross Blue Shield affiliates in a number of states, such as Texas, Illinois, New Mexico, and Montana.

He was also the Chairman of the Board and CEO of Halliburton Company from 2000 to 2017 and Executive Chairman of the Board until his retirement in December 2018. He joined Halliburton in 1993 and served in a variety of other roles, including President and Chief Operating Officer. During his tenure at Halliburton, he was honored with the American Petroleum Institute's prestigious Gold Medal for Distinguished Achievement, recognizing his energy industry leadership in driving unprecedented technological innovation, advancing sustainability, and strengthening industry-wide progress.

He has served on the board of directors of several companies, such as Agrium, Inc., Lyondell Chemical Co., Southern Co., Cordant Technologies, and is currently on the board of the Houston Astros MLB Baseball team, where he is a minority owner.

A Certified Public Accountant, he received both his B.S. and MBA from the University of Wisconsin. He and his wife, Sherry, have two adult children and two grandchildren.



Ryan Lance '84

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of ConocoPhillips

Ryan M. Lance has served as chairman and chief executive officer of ConocoPhillips, one of the world's leading exploration and production companies, since 2012.

Ryan is a petroleum engineer with four decades of oil and natural gas industry experience in senior management and technical positions with ConocoPhillips, predecessor Phillips Petroleum and various divisions of ARCO. His past ConocoPhillips executive assignments included responsibility for international exploration and production, regional responsibility at various times for Asia, Africa, the Middle East and North America, and responsibility for technology, major projects, downstream strategy, integration and specialty functions.

Externally, Ryan is a board member of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and a trustee of both the George and Barbara Bush Foundation and PGA Reach. He is also an advocate for charities benefiting youth through his service on the board of Spindletop International. He is former chairman of the American Petroleum Institute currently serving on its Executive Committee, and currently Vice Chair of the National Petroleum Council and on the Business Roundtable Board.

Ryan is a member of the Society of Petroleum Engineers. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in petroleum engineering from Montana Technological University in Butte in 1984.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO THE COMMENCEMENT COMMITTEE:

This ceremony would not be possible without the hard work of Amanda Badovinac, Siranda Brackett, Colleen Fink, Shauna Goodell, Tamara Harp, Jodie Jones, Ginnie LaMere, Mark Robertson, Heather Skocilich, Matt Stepan, Hanah Stewart, Jesse Taylor, and Laurie Vandel.



MONTANA
TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

125 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

Montana Technological University stands on a bedrock of 125 years of pioneering history and unwavering dedication to excellence.

Our institution's journey began with the vision of the Enabling Act of 1889. In 1900, we formally opened our doors as the Montana State School of Mines. Operating from historic Main Hall, our legacy commenced with just 21 ambitious students, dedicated to the future of industry with foundational degrees in mining and electrical engineering.

MONTANA'S STEM UNIVERSITY

While our name has evolved, that initial pioneering spirit has only intensified. Today, Montana Tech is the state's STEM university—a rigorous institution where students are challenged to solve the world's most complex problems.

We deliver a world-class, transformative education dedicated to developing leaders and advancing science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Our graduates carry forward a distinct legacy of innovation and practical excellence, driving global industry and shaping sustainable solutions.

WRITING OUR NEXT GREAT CHAPTER

To the Class of 2025: You are the most recent link in a powerful chain of innovators. For 125 years, Montana Tech has consistently met America's emerging needs by preparing the next generation of STEM leaders.

As we celebrate this historic anniversary, we honor the rich history that defined us and look forward to a future of continued excellence and discovery.

Montana Tech is ready to write our next great chapter, and we thank you for being a vital part of our enduring story.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2026!

SCAN FOR THE
COMMENCEMENT
PROGRAM

