

Staff Senators 2017-2018

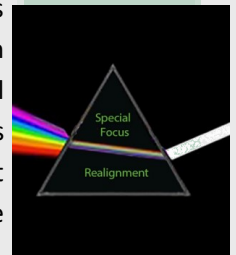
Angela Stillwagon, President
Peggy McCoy, Vice President
Joyce O'Neill, Secretary/Treasurer
Nick Bowsher
Ronda Cogull
Peggy Delaney
Scott Forthofer
Frances Holmes
Marcia Lubick
Marilyn Patrick
Taryn Quayle
Kathy Stevens
Casey Vanatta
Niki Wilcox

The Montana Tech Staff Senate is composed of representatives for classified staff, the crafts, professional, and union-exempt staff. The purpose of the Staff Senate is to “promote continued improvement of higher education at Montana Tech and in the state of Montana; promote stability and professional growth of the Montana Tech staff; and promote service to students by improving morale and working conditions of the Montana Tech staff.”

Wire Committee Report

In May 2017, the Montana Board of Trustees designated Montana Tech as a Special Focus Institution. What is a special focus institution? An institution is considered special focus if at least 75% of undergraduate and graduate degrees it confers are in a single field or set of related fields. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) plus Health-related degrees comprises 86% of all degrees awarded at Tech. This new special focus designation provides Montana Tech a tremendous opportunity to define its future.

Chancellor Blacketter created a team of thirteen faculty and staff, the Workgroup for Institutional Realignment for Excellence (WIRE), to collect campus community input about how to take advantage of the special focus institution and strongly position Montana Tech in an increasingly competitive higher education environment. To date, WIRE has met with 41 campus groups to solicit their feedback about the special focus initiative. WIRE members conducted a survey of faculty and staff regarding issues such as Montana Tech’s name and preliminary institutional goals and objectives. Members of WIRE also met with the past president of the Oregon Institute of Technology, Dr. Chris Maples. Dr. Maples was the president of Oregon Tech when the institution went through a similar redefinition process.



WIRE will meet with remaining Tech academic departments, Directors, and Dean’s Council, Industrial Advisory Boards (IABs), Alumnae, and current students. The committee will review all feedback and the recently updated Montana Tech Strategic Plan and use this information to make recommendations for program development and realignment that advance the special focus initiative.

How can you be involved? WIRE wants your input! Any staff member can submit their ideas, concerns, and questions directly to the WIRE committee via email at WIRE@mtech.edu or by contacting any of the committee members. Montana Tech has grown and achieved its strong reputation from the integrated efforts of staff, faculty, administration, and alumnae. It will take that same united effort to position us strongly for the future.

Please Welcome our New Employees:

Barbara Cass, Bookstore	Croix Gilliland, SUB	Kramer Ungaretti, Office of Sponsored Programs
Jolene Castle, Physical Facilities	Dora Guldborg, Career Services	
Kaitlin Cross, Enrollment Services	Angelo Juarez, Physical Facilities	Diane Warthen, Marketing & Public Relations
Julie Crowley, Civil & Mechanical	Kinsley Rafish, Enrollment Services	
Brent Donovan, Computer Science		

Staff Senate Charity Drive

The Montana Tech State Senate partnered with Residence Life in its first *Charity Drive for the Homeless* the week of October 23rd. Collection boxes were available at key locations throughout campus and delivered to the Butte Rescue Mission on Friday, November 3. We would like to thank everyone who participated. As winter begins to creep in and with shelter currently unavailable, the needs of Butte's homeless population is becoming more critical. Your contributions will make a difference in the coming months. The Butte Rescue Mission continues to accept donations of clothing, toiletries, blankets, and food at their location at 123 E Park Street.



Pictured left to right. Karen Turnbull, Office Manager, Butte Rescue Mission, Denise Herman, Research Assistant, Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, Peggy McCoy, Director of Alumni Engagement and Chad Hemphill, Store Manager, Butte Rescue Mission.



Luncheon Learning

Meaningful Student Employment

On Wednesday, November 1st, Tristan Sewell (Financial Aid) and Angela Stillwagon (Career Services) presented a Luncheon Learning session on student employment information. Angela began with tips on providing meaningful student employment opportunities, including the competencies associated with career readiness. Tristan outlined the process of hiring students and reviewed essential paperwork, policies, and time card changes.



Angela shared the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) definition of career readiness and elaborated on the competencies that employers look for when hiring college students and graduates: Critical Thinking/Problem Solving, Oral/Written Communication, Teamwork/Collaboration, Information Technology Application, Professionalism/Work Ethic, Career Management, and Global/Intercultural Fluency.

According to Angela, 872 students are presently registered with Career Services as interested in campus jobs; she also reviewed posting student opportunities through DIGGERecruiting. Contact Career Services, x4140, for information about seeking student employees or tips for providing meaningful employment and helping students develop strong skills.

Tristan shared that 490 students are working in 553 positions on campus. In addition, she covered the types of jobs on campus, the work-study program, and the number of students eligible. She also stressed the importance of ensuring that all paperwork is complete before the student begins working (or by the 3rd day of work). Time cards were revised this semester for efficiency and old time cards are no longer accepted. Contact Tristan, x4223, for information on the appropriate paperwork, policies, or time cards.

Student Employment Website <http://www.mtech.edu/onestop/financial-aid/student-employment/>

The slides from this session are available at <http://www.mtech.edu/about/staffsenate/luncheon-learning-series/index.htm>.

Pat On the Back

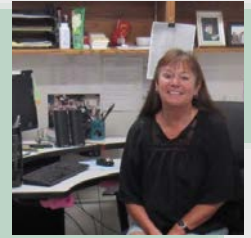
Jackie Amaya

What is your role at Montana Tech?

My official title is Director of the Digger Card Center/Mail Copy Center. But I 'm kind of a Jack of all trades.

What is your proudest moment at Montana Tech?

This is a difficult question to answer. There are so many things that "We" have accomplished since I have been at Tech. I say we because there is no way I could have done any of this by myself. It has all been a team effort. The people that I work with and are amazing. They are smart, supportive and just great human beings. But my proudest moment was getting on our own card system. It was a lot of hard work from all of us.



What are three words that describe your work experience at Montana Tech?

At the top of my list I have to say **friendly**. You take a look around at the employees when they are interacting with each other and they are for the most part happy.

Next is **innovative**, especially the people I work closely with. Our IT dept. is a prime example of this word.

Fun is my final word. I have fun doing what I do and working with the people that I work with.

Need an online travel authorization or travel expense form quickly? Want to know who can help solve your computer technology problems? Did you know that Montana Tech Staff can use the Butte-Silver Bow Bus system free of charge? Guess where the Cyberbear link is. Need to submit a work request to physical plant services? The Montana Tech Staff Senate webpage has a handy list with frequently sought links and phone numbers. To see the list go to <http://www.mtech.edu/about/staffsenate/helpful-links.htm> If you would like to suggest any additions to the list, please let us know.

REMINDERS

Pat on the Back recognizes individual staff members and/or teams who have performed beyond expectation, making exceptional efforts toward achieving the mission of Montana Tech.

Submit here: https://www.mtech.edu/app/staff_senate/Nominate.aspx

Ask the Senate As an advisory group to the Chancellor, the Staff Senate recommends policies or changes to policies for consideration by the Chancellor and facilitates effective communication between Montana Tech administration and staff. Please use this forum as a neutral conduit to share your ideas, concerns, and ask questions about Montana Tech issues. The Staff Senate will forward each submission to the appropriate department for response and share the information on the Staff Senate webpage. We hope to hear from you!

Submit here: https://www.mtech.edu/app/staff_senate/AskSenate.aspx

Montana Tech
STAFF SENATE

LUNCHEON
LEARNING
SERIES

Montana Tech's Staff Senate along with the Chancellor's office hosts a monthly Luncheon Learning Series highlighting different subjects of interest to the staff. Please watch for e-mail from Angela Stillwagon with more information.