

From: [Office of the MSU Provost](#)
Subject: The Spring Sprint to Commencement
Date: Monday, March 23, 2026 8:00:18 AM
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MONTANA
STATE UNIVERSITY

Office of the Provost

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome back from Spring Break. I hope you had time to rest and recharge. As we enter the stretch toward Commencement, thank you for the energy you bring to your classrooms, studios, labs, fieldwork, and advising.

Today we celebrate MSU research with our inaugural Centers and Institutes Day and Research Celebration. Tomorrow evening, Dr. Doug Cairns will deliver the [Provost's Distinguished Lecture](#). Dr. Cairns is a professor of mechanical engineering known for his work in advanced composite materials and structures. I encourage you to attend the lecture and reception. These events highlight the strength of MSU's research enterprise and the curiosity that drives our work.

On Thursday, the [AI Faculty Symposium](#), hosted by the *MSU Interdisciplinary Institute for Artificial Intelligence*, offers another opportunity to engage with colleagues and strengthen our work in a rapidly evolving environment. Sessions will address research with AI, applications in teaching and learning, and emerging challenges. The program features practical examples from MSU faculty and will be a strong use of your time.

Priority registration for summer and fall opens this week. Please encourage students to meet with their advisor and plan their next steps. Advising remains one of our most consequential contributions to student success. Even brief guidance can shape a student's path. In your role as a faculty advisor, I ask that you prioritize meeting with students who still need advising this semester, whether for internships, graduate school planning, or course selection for timely completion.

The weeks ahead will be busy and rewarding. They reflect what makes MSU distinctive, which is our faculty who invest deeply in student learning and in one another's success. Thank you for your continued dedication. I look forward to celebrating with you the accomplishments ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob".

Dr. Robert L. Mokwa | Executive Vice President and Provost
Montana State University
Tel. 406-994-4371

Upcoming Events

TODAY: [MSU Research Celebration](#) and [VPRED Centers & Institutes Day](#)

Mar. 24: [Provost Distinguished Lecture](#), Dr. Doug Cairns, 7pm, Museum of the Rockies

Mar. 26: [Faculty Symposium on AI](#), 8am-5pm, Strand Union Building

Apr. 2: [Presidential Inauguration](#), 3pm, Strand Union Building

May 1: [Student Research Celebration](#), 10am-noon and 1-3pm, Strand Union Building

May 8: [Spring Commencement](#), Brick Breeden Fieldhouse

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