

Academic Affairs

Newsletter



Summer's Looking Bright

Good things are happening across Academic Affairs this summer. This issue brings national recognition, a new dean, a new certificate program, and a few events and updates worth knowing about. Take a look.



ID Verification and Assessment Tools Update

Following the May announcement, Verity by YuJa has been selected as UM's recommended tool for ID verification. It will not function as a campus-wide proctoring tool. If a college or department chooses to pursue a proctoring tool independently, Verity is the approved option to ensure a consistent student experience. Verity has been vetted for accessibility, privacy, and security at UM and has previously been used in Canvas. Any alternative proctoring product required by a professional or accreditation standard must complete the full UM review and procurement process before implementation. Additional information on using Verity for ID verification will be available later this summer.

Gradescope has also been purchased as a separate assessment platform to support grading and analysis of assignments and exams — including handwritten work, rubric creation, and Scantron alternatives. Review the [Gradescope Tip Sheet](#) for Canvas integration guidance.

Direct questions about proctoring policy, implementation, or alternative grading options to the LEAD instructional design team at LEAD@umontana.edu.

[LEAD website](#)

Bring Career Readiness Into Your Summer Courses

Career coaches from Experiential Learning and Career Success are available all summer to present to your class — on campus or online — on a range of career topics. Browse the options and [submit a presentation request](#).

Looking for quick, assignable activities? Send students to the [Iris Photo Booth](#) for a free professional headshot, set them up with [Big Interview](#) for on-demand interview practice, or explore additional assignments through the [Career Champions Canvas learning hub](#).

Want to join a community of faculty and staff committed to student career readiness? Join Career Champions today via the link below.

[Career Champions webpage](#)

UM and UCSD Team Up on Biotech QA/QC Career Accelerator

The University of Montana's Montana Biotechnology Center has partnered with UC San Diego Extended Studies to launch the Biotech QA/QC Career Accelerator Certificate Program. Designed for STEM graduates and scientists looking to break into or advance within the biotechnology industry, the program builds practical skills in laboratory essentials, quality systems, documentation practices, and regulatory compliance.

Participants can earn a UCSD Graduate Certificate, a UM Certificate of Completion, or both, through three flexible pathways: online only, in-person practical training only, or a combined online and hands-on option.

The Summer 2026 cohort runs July 27-31, 2026. Registration closes July 10, 2026.

For program information, contact the Montana Biotechnology Center at biotechprograms@umontana.edu. For registration inquiries, contact Extended Learning at ExtendedLearningSupport@umontana.edu.

Apply for the Biotech QA/QC Career Accelerator Certificate Program

Mansfield Library Interlibrary Loan is Upgrading!

The Mansfield Library's Interlibrary Loan (ILL) service is moving to a new platform on July 1, bringing a refreshed interface while maintaining the same reliable service. One important note: prior ILL request histories will not transfer to the new system. If you would like a copy of your request history before the transition, the ILL department can export it for you on request.

To request your history or ask questions, contact the ILL department at library.ill@mso.umt.edu or 406-243-6736.

Additional details will be available on the Mansfield Library ILL page as the July 1 go-live approaches.

[Mansfield Library ILL webpage](#)

Help Spread the Word: Club Sports Preview Day is July 10

The University of Montana hosts 20+ club sports teams across coed, men's, and women's divisions — and Club Sports Preview Day is a great chance for prospective students to see what's available. If you know a high school student exploring their college options, or a neighbor or local coach connected to student athletes, pass this along.

Club Sports Preview Day takes place Friday, July 10, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on the University of Montana campus. Learn more about [Co-Ed](#), [Men's](#), and [Women's](#) Club Sports, or share the [Club Sports Preview Day registration link](#) directly.

[Club Sports Preview Day registration link](#)



NEWS



Dr. Michael Lynn Appointed Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences

The Office of the Provost is pleased to announce that Dr. Michael Lynn has been appointed as the Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. Dr. Lynn will assume this role on July 15, 2026.

Dr. Lynn joins the University of Montana from Purdue University Northwest, where he has served in a variety of academic leadership roles, including Associate Dean, Interim Dean, Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, department chair, and assistant dean. Throughout his career, he has demonstrated a collaborative leadership style grounded in faculty engagement, student success, strategic planning, and academic excellence.

As a senior academic leader, Dr. Lynn has overseen budgets, academic programs, enrollment initiatives, faculty hiring, and student success efforts across the humanities, social sciences, education, and counseling disciplines. He brings

extensive experience leading through institutional change while supporting faculty, staff, and students.

A Professor of History, Dr. Lynn is an accomplished scholar whose research focuses on eighteenth-century French history and the history of science. He has authored and edited multiple books, published extensively in leading scholarly journals, and remains actively engaged in national professional organizations. He currently serves as Treasurer of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies.

Throughout his career, Dr. Lynn has combined scholarly achievement with a deep commitment to advocating for the humanities and social sciences and their vital role in preparing students for meaningful careers, engaged citizenship, and lifelong learning.

Of his appointment, Dr. Lynn shared:

“I am honored to join the new College of Humanities and Social Sciences. I am keenly interested in advocating for the humanities and social sciences at the University of Montana, in the region, and nationally. I am especially looking forward to working with faculty, staff, and students to craft a vision and plan for CHSS moving forward, a plan that highlights our considerable strengths, maintains our centrality in the education of all students at the University, and emphasizes our continued importance in preparing all students for employment and for life.”

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Lynn to the University of Montana.

UM School of Social Work Earns National Field Education Award

The University of Montana School of Social Work has been named the recipient of the 2026 CSWE Field Education/Practicum Excellence in Innovation Award by the Council on Social Work Education. The award recognizes the program's relationship-centered, justice-oriented model of practicum education, which is designed to expand equitable access to social work training across Montana, the Rocky Mountain West, and geographically isolated communities.

Led by Director Kat Werner, LCSW, MSW, the program is built on a straightforward commitment: students should not have to leave their communities to become social

workers. Through partnerships with tribal and rural colleges, community agencies, and remote service organizations, the program strengthens local communities and workforce capacity across the region.

[Read the full CSWE 2026 award announcement](#)



[Learn More on GrizHub](#)

[Register on the LEAD Bookings page](#)

LEAD Training: Canvas Course Building Workshop

10 a.m. - 12 p.m., Wednesday, July 8, LA/Eck Hall 103B

This in-person workshop will give you hands-on experience building and updating your course(s) in Canvas. The workshop will begin with 30 to 45 minutes of instruction followed by Q&A and one-on-one support with an instructional designer there to provide guidance and answer individual questions. Please bring own device for course development. Workshop enrollment will be limited to 10 participants. Please register at least 1 hour in advance on the LEAD Bookings page.



Use the AA Newsletter Submission Form button below to share your content with the Academic Affairs sector. To be considered for next Monday's newsletter, submissions need to be received by Friday at 10:00 AM.

[AA Newsletter Submission Form](#)

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