



MONTANA

CXVII

WESTERN

Commencement

THE UNIVERSITY of MONTANA WESTERN

ORDER OF EXERCISES

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2024, 10:00 AM

STRAUGH GYMNASIUM | DILLON, MONTANA

Processional	Doug Daenzer, M.S., Instructor of Business, Chief Marshal
National Anthem	UMW Student, Chloe Keith Words by Francis Scott Key, music by John Stafford Smith
Little Big Horn Honor Song	Lewis Yellow Mule & Douglas V. Crooked Arm, LBHC Crow Studies Faculty Shawn Real Bird, LBHC Board of Trustees
Welcome, Announcements and Introductions	Michael L. Reid, Chancellor, The University of Montana Western
Congratulations from the Board of Regents	Garret Yeager, 2023-24 Montana University System Student Regent
Recognition of the Classes of 1974 and 1999	
Presentation of the Alumni Distinguished Service Award to Sharon Anderson	Roxanne Engellant, UMW Foundation Executive Director and Director of Alumni Relations
Congratulations from the Associated Students of Montana Western	Raina Mortenson, 2023-24 President, ASUMW
Commencement Address	Steve Mock, Ph.D., UMW Professor of Chemistry Emeritus and Climbing Instructor, Environmental Sciences Department
Presentation of Candidates and Conferring of Degrees for the University of Montana Western	Michael L. Reid, Chancellor, The University of Montana Western Johnny MacLean, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, The University of Montana Western Nicole Hazelbaker, Dean of Students, The University of Montana Western
Recognition of Honor Graduates	Michael L. Reid, Chancellor, The University of Montana Western
Concluding Remarks	Michael L. Reid, Chancellor, The University of Montana Western
Recessional	<i>The audience will remain seated until the stage party, faculty and graduates have left the gymnasium. Please join us at the reception for the Class of 2024 on the Legacy Plaza immediately following the ceremony.</i>

CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES CLASS OF 2024

POST BACCALAUREATE CERTIFICATES

BUSINESS EDUCATION

Jessie Dines, *Geraldine, MT* ♦♦♦
Katrina Lee Feddes, *Absarokee, MT* ♦
Colby Orvis Minert, *Box Elder, MT* ♦♦♦
Lisa Vandersloot, *Hardin, MT* ♦♦

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION: PRE-KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 3

Ute Johnston, *Highwood, MT* ♦♦♦
Roberta W. Lee, *Helena, MT*

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION K-8

Jennifer Adair, *Troy, MT* ♦♦♦
Jenifer Greene Blazicevich, *Lewistown, MT* ♦♦♦
AliceAnn Sloan, *Hardin, MT* ♦♦
Madison Stewart, *Dillon, MT* ♦♦

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH K-12

Britt Cooper, *Harrison, MT* ♦♦♦
Tika Ann Counts, *Kalispell, MT* ♦♦♦
Mitchell Czerniak, *Newton Falls, OH* ♦♦♦
Natalee Faupel, *Butte, MT* ♦♦♦
Melissa Granberg, *Butte, MT*
Beth Pelton, *Fishtail, MT* ♦♦♦
Coral Tjaden Schulz, *Whitefish, MT* ♦♦♦
Hailey Wisner, *Belgrade, MT* ♦♦♦

SECONDARY EDUCATION

Jessica Lee Boyer, *Great Falls, MT*
Britt Cooper, *Harrison, MT* ♦♦♦
Carolyn Dawes, *Hardin, MT* ♦
Natalee Faupel, *Butte, MT* ♦♦♦
Taylor B. Mavrinac, *Belt, MT* ♦
Joseph Nelson, *Augusta, MT* ♦♦♦
Alexander Reid, *Spokane, WA* ♦♦♦
McKenzie Watterson, *Billings, MT* ♦♦♦

ACADEMIC HONORS

- ♦♦♦ **SUMMA CUM LAUDE**
3.85 to 4.00 GPA
- ♦♦ **MAGNA CUM LAUDE**
3.65 to 3.84 GPA
- ♦ **CUM LAUDE**
3.33 to 3.64 GPA
- **MILITARY**
- ▲ **HONORS PROGRAM**

Graduation with academic distinction is based on an earned average of 3.33 or higher on a 4.00 scale for work completed at the University of Montana Western for all undergraduate degrees.

TOP MALE AND FEMALE STUDENT AWARDS

RUSH JORDAN & ZELLA K. FLORES AWARDS

An innovation at the Awards assembly in May 1958 was the granting of two scholarship awards. One for men to be known as the Rush Jordan Scholarship Award, and one going to women to be the Zella K. Flores Memorial Award. Award certificates are presented each spring to the graduating seniors having the highest academic standings.

Rush Jordan was Montana Western's president from 1946-56.

Zella K. Flores was one of the founders and a past president of the Montana chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, a national educational society for women.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Denise Christine Benden, *Great Falls, MT* ♦♦
Danielle Chibroski, *Great Falls, MT* ♦♦♦
Brittney Crow, *Kalispell, MT* ♦
Rosel Joy Sison Dalisay, *Hardin, MT* ♦♦♦
Page Grogan, *Butte, MT* ♦♦♦
Brianna Gulbertson, *Venice, FL* ♦♦♦
Jessie Marreel, *Great Falls, MT* ♦♦♦
Shaylee Smith, *Arlee, MT* ♦♦

BACHELOR OF ARTS

ENGLISH

Montana Rose Campbell, *Polson, MT* ♦
Crystal Felgenhauer, *Shelley, ID* ♦
Cynthia Gregg, *Athol, ID* ♦
Samantha Lorraine Gregg, *Athol, ID* ♦
Andrea Jane Violette, *Deer Lodge, MT* ♦♦♦
Madalyn Wonnacott, *Butte, MT*

ENGLISH AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Aine Brady, *Deer Lodge, MT* ♦♦♦
Draylen Sawyer, *Simms, MT* ♦♦▲
Laura Marie Symmes, *Kalispell, MT* ♦♦♦
Shawn-Patrick Traynor, *Helena, MT* ♦♦
Elizabeth Belle Varner, *Victor, MT* ♦
Nicholas Werkmeister, *Butte, MT* ♦♦

INTERDISCIPLINARY SOCIAL SCIENCE

Jonathan Jessop, *Helena, MT* ♦♦♦
Hirkley Latu, *Kahuku, HI*
Elizabeth Simonsen, *Dillon, MT* ♦
Jolee Marie Thompson, *Dillon, MT* ♦♦

INTERDISCIPLINARY SOCIAL SCIENCE AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Jessie Barnett, *Townsend, MT*
Maxwell Kent, *Billings, MT* ♦♦♦
Aydan Prieto, *Marion, MT*

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Molly Elizabeth Shane, *Sheridan, MT* ♦♦
Tamra Lynn Wiggins, *Dillon, MT* ♦♦

MODERN HISTORY

Jessie Barnett, *Townsend, MT*
Jonathan Jessop, *Helena, MT* ♦♦♦
William Andrew Landau, *Long Grove, IL* ♦
Jolee Marie Thompson, *Dillon, MT* ♦♦
Tamra Lynn Wiggins, *Dillon, MT* ♦♦

MODERN HISTORY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Alexis Cannon, *Lincoln, MT* ♦♦♦▲
Sierra Metesh, *Philipsburg, MT* ♦
Ross Reed, *Chinook, MT* ♦

PSYCHOLOGY

Anastasia M. Chaney, *Wichita, KS*
Kathryn Darity, *Ballantine, MT* ♦
Madison Gray, *Dillon, MT* ♦♦♦
Abbigail Green, *Butte, MT*
Rachel Marchant, *Stevensville, MT* ♦♦
Elizabeth Simonsen, *Dillon, MT* ♦
Elizabeth Ronna White, *Lincoln, MT*
Tamra Lynn Wiggins, *Dillon, MT* ♦♦

SOCIOLOGY

Kathryn Darity, *Ballantine, MT* ♦

VISUAL ARTS

Aspen Mae Jonas, *Anaconda, MT* ♦
Hayden S. Kunhardt, *Glendive, MT* ♦♦
Taylor Warner, *Deer Lodge, MT* ♦

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

ART EDUCATION K-12

Faith Afleje, *Vaughn, MT* ♦
Aspen Mae Jonas, *Anaconda, MT* ♦

BIOLOGY

Hadassah Elianna Simcha Auch, *Boulder, MT* ♦
Margaret Kaiser, *Missoula, MT* ♦
Connor Patrick Kelly, *Lake Oswego, OR*
Julia Mae Lambertus, *Victor, CA* ♦
Jordan LeCompte, *Bellingham, WA* ♦
Emily Mooty, *Eagle River, AK* ♦♦
Shay Lynn Paddie, *Dillon, MT*
Kylee Pittman, *Glen, MT* ♦♦♦

Araceli Ramirez, *Kaycee, WY* ♦
Crislen Suan, *Honolulu, HI*

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Reese Artz, *Battle Mountain, NV* ♦♦
Ryan Bickelhaupt, *Pullman, WA* ♦♦♦
Clay Thomas Blankenship, *Dutton, MT*
Trinity S. Bushnell, *Helena, MT* ♦♦♦
Derek-Rauch Edwards, *Moscow, ID*
Calista R. Fahrney, *Somers, MT*
James D. Gilham, *Browning, MT* ♦
Braleigh Rae Garrett, *Butte, MT* ♦♦♦
Ben Howerton, *Horseshoe Bend, ID* ♦♦♦
Jok Jok, *Phoenix, AZ*
Akota J. Kalina, *Kountze, TX*
Wesley Josiah Korpi, *Dillon, MT* ♦♦♦
Kaleb Lee, *Longmont, CO* ♦
Tristen Lee, *Longmont, CO*
Kylie Marie Lemburg, *Shepherd, MT* ♦♦♦
Angela A. Macdonald, *Dillon, MT* ♦♦♦
Shainy Mack, *Three Forks, MT* ♦♦♦
Caedan Martin, *Sherwood, OR* ♦♦♦
Jesse Dale McMurtrey, *Helena, MT*
Kinley Marie Miller, *Miles City, MT* ♦
Samantha Michelle Mullennix, *Oceanside, CA*
Grayson S. Nelson, *Firth, ID*
Rylee Ann Nickodemus, *Loveland, CO* ♦♦
Hanna Nielsen, *Castle Drive, UT* ♦♦♦
Kaley Paulsen, *Idaho Falls, ID* ♦♦♦
Treyton Paxton, *Riverton, WY* ♦
Braden Smith, *Whitehall, MT*
Ty Smith, *Ronan, MT* ♦
Gabriel Sommers, *Helena, MT* ♦♦
Chase Spotorno, *Helena, MT*
Ethan Toguchi-Tani, *Kailua, HI* ♦
Madilynn Whitmore, *Sherwood, OR* ♦♦
Jaxson Yanzick, *Boulder, MT* ♦♦

BUSINESS AND COMPUTER APPLICATIONS EDUCATION

Lincoln Leary, *Boulder, MT* ♦♦

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Angela M.W. Anderson, *Molt, MT* ♦♦♦
Molly Antonioli, *Butte, MT* ♦♦♦
Crystal L. Kist, *Great Falls, MT* ♦♦♦
Melissa Nikolakakos, *Livingston, MT* ♦♦♦
Heather Sullivan, *Butte, MT*

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION: PRE-KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 3

Kendra Barroso, *Merced, CA* ♦♦♦
Amber Chevallier, *Helena, MT* ♦♦
Launna Crow Chief, *Cut Bank, MT* ♦♦♦
Lori Lynn Day, *Hamilton, MT* ♦♦
Amanda Manjary Dedmon, *Great Falls, MT*
Baily D. Essex, *Big Timber, MT* ♦
Jennifer E. Hoffman, *Pryor, MT* ♦♦
Lizeth Hollis, *Huntington Park, CA*
Jessika Jones, *Troy, MT* ♦♦♦
Alysia R. Kolles, *Chesaning, MI* ♦♦
Rebecca Krezelak, *Havre, MT* ♦♦♦
Levi Loggins, *Butte, MT*
Leah Renee O'Connor, *Moscow, ID* ♦♦♦
Trevor Paro, *Hot Springs, MT* ♦♦
Ellie Eve Perrine, *Helena, MT* ♦
Katelynn Peterson, *Billings, MT* ♦
Heavin-Lea Pruitt, *Chinook, MT* ♦♦
Bailey Nicole Schuchard, *Harlowton, MT* ♦♦♦
Taeya Srb, *Great Falls, MT* ♦♦
Abigail Grace Supalla, *Helena, MT* ♦♦
Madison Terhaar, *Arlington, WA* ♦♦

ECOLOGY

Morgan Marie Baseley, *Anderson, CA*
Stratton Bohl, *Great Falls, MT*
Connor Born, *Salmon, ID*
Hunter Bugni, *Butte, MT* ♦♦
Emily Curtis, *Foster City, MI* ♦
Ty Daniel, *Boise, ID*
Grace Davison, *Belt, MT*
Joseph Lamb, *Columbia Falls, MT*
Kyle LeVeque, *Ulm, MT*
Dylan VanderSchaaf, *Salmon, ID*
Alanna E. Vickory, *Helena, MT*

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

Faith Afleje, *Vaughn, MT* ♦
Barbara Ann Alden, *Crow Agency, MT* ♦♦
Jocelyn Ann Big Throat, *Browning, MT* ♦
Tristan R. Bird Rattler, *Browning, MT*
Jessica Brierly, *Conrad, MT* ♦♦♦
Raelynn J. Calf Boss Ribs, *Heart Butte, MT*
Michele Calftail, *Browning, MT* ♦♦♦
Keeley Chrest, *Harlowtown, MT* ♦♦
Nathan William Connolly, *Anaconda, MT* ♦♦♦
Claire Elaine Culbertson, *Belgrade, MT* ♦♦♦
Terry Cummins, *Lodge Grass, MT*
Sarah Detlaff, *Thompson Falls, MT* ♦♦♦
Samantha S. Devereaux, *Babb, MT* ♦
Madisyn Drake, *Hamilton, MT* ♦♦♦

John Dust, *Hardin, MT* ♦♦
Kyle Ebert, *Billings, MT* ♦
Dreama Dawn Eschenbacher, *Churchill, MT*
Shayla Ferguson, *Cave Creek, AZ* ♦♦
Cade Field, *Billings, MT* ♦♦♦
Kailynn A. Field, *Butte, MT* ♦♦
Sarah Eve Flamond, *Browning, MT*
Krystal Forsness, *Wolf Point, MT*
Katherine Goodman, *Wolf Point, MT*
Kimberli Ghekiere, *Chester, MT* ♦
Jacob M. Glaze, *Browning, MT* ♦
Gwendale Good Luck, *Crow Agency, MT* ♦♦
Amy R. Grant, *Browning, MT* ♦♦
Kortni Lee Guardipee, *Browning, MT* ♦♦♦
Nicolette Marie Haleyalbung, *Garryowen, MT*
Reva Carmel Half, *Garryowen, MT* ♦
Shelby L. Hannon, *Browning, MT* ♦♦
Myron Heavy Runner, *Browning, MT* ♦♦♦
Riley Rachelle Henderson, *Deer Lodge, MT* ♦♦♦
Creeshenee Crystal Hoar, *Butte, MT* ♦♦♦
Eva Hoops-Fisher, *Crow Agency, MT*
Clarena B. Hugs, *Crow Agency, MT* ♦♦
Tiffany Rae Icopini, *Hardin, MT* ♦♦♦
Hailey M. Jaksha, *Butte, MT*
Kya Michell Littlefield, *Butte, MT* ♦
Jasmine Littleplume, *Browning, MT* ♦
Rachel McCullough, *Butte, MT* ♦♦♦
Loran May Murphy, *Ballantine, MT* ♦♦♦
Mary Howe Not Afraid, *Lodge Grass, MT* ♦♦
Sydney Not Afraid, *Lodge Grass, MT*
Stephanie Olson, *Lewistown, MT* ♦♦♦
Kelsie Oxnam, *Anaconda, MT* ♦♦
Jolauna B. Pickett, *Crow Agency, MT*
Bobbi Jo Powell, *Babb, MT* ♦♦♦
Jacy L. Racine, *Browning, MT* ♦♦
Justine Schindler, *Dillon, MT*
Jackie M. Spint, *Wyola, MT* ♦♦
Melton Spotted Bear Jr., *Pryor, MT*
Sydney St. Goddard, *Browning, MT* ♦♦♦
Krystee R. Tailfeathers, *Heart Butte, MT* ♦♦
Angela Tatsey-McKay, *Browning, MT* ♦♦
Kourtney J. Vaile, *Browning, MT*
Kathryn Walter, *Great Falls, MT* ♦♦
Jayson Garen Wanner, *Great Falls, MT* ♦♦♦
William Ware, *Crow Agency, MT* ♦
Kaitlyn Anne White, *Helena, MT* ♦♦
Jessica L. Whiteman, *Hardin, MT* ♦♦
Garret Yeager, *Choteau, MT* ♦

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Jonathan Harrison, *Missoula, MT* ♦
Cole Bickford, *Bridgton, ME* ♦
Noah D. Braden, *Helena, MT*
Logan Drown, *Whitefish, MT* ♦

Megan Francois, *Tuscon, AZ*
Samatha Haak, *Minisink, NY* ♦♦♦
Luke Lutz, *Frenchtown, MT* ♦
Shiloh Rainey, *Hall, MT*

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Alex J. Becker, *Deer Lodge, MT* ♦
Zacherie Lee Brown, *Hamilton, MT*
Julia M. Carrasco, *Pasco, WA*
Samuel Potoczny, *Great Falls, MT*
Kameron Allen Rauser, *Townsend, MT*
Nicholas Storm Wade, *Lebanon Township, NJ* ♦♦♦

GENERAL BROADFIELD SCIENCE AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

McKenzie Faulkner, *Butte, MT* ♦

KINESIOLOGY

Jaden Kekainui Amasiu, *Kailua, HI*
Brandon K. Aimsback, *Heart Butte, MT*
Kade Bethke, *American Falls, ID* ♦♦
Cassi Sue Christensen, *Elko, NV* ♦♦
Kaylee Cracraft, *Ely, NV* ♦♦
Sarah Detlaff, *Thompson Falls, MT*
Sierra Hamilton, *East Helena, MT* ♦♦
Michael James Haverfield, *Dillon, MT* ♦
KayLee Kopp, *Fort Collins, CO* ♦♦♦
Colter Miller, *Three Forks, MT* ♦♦
Bryer Monson, *Filer, ID*
Rylee Ann Nickodemus, *Loveland, CO* ♦♦
Cecelia Tafoya, *Angel Fire, NM* ♦
Lindsey Jordan Veldstra, *Kalispell, MT* ♦♦♦

MATHEMATICS AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Pralie Duffin, *Manhattan, MT* ♦♦♦

MUSIC EDUCATION K-12

Logan C. Elliott, *Hamilton, MT* ♦♦
Grace Feldmann, *Dutton, MT* ♦♦♦

NATURAL HORSEMANSHIP

Cole Joseph Benoit, *St. Amant, LA* ♦■
Mikala M. Doss, *Big Timber, MT* ♦
Ahna Fox, *Big Fork, MT* ♦♦♦
Georgia Raye Greenberg, *Culver City, CA*
Tatum Danielle Higginbotham, *Reno, NV*
Marcel August Hoffman, *Big Sky, MT* ♦

Jordan Hughes, *Ephraim, UT* ♦
Molly Jackson, *Gunnison, MT*
Jeniffer Kotten, *Sleepy Eye, MN* ♦
Jordan LeCompte, *Bellingham, WA* ♦
Aubrey Little, *Centerville, MN*
Delaney Martinez Lockhart, *San Roman, CA*
Eveleen Egan Milacek, *Long Beach Township, NJ*
Emily Mooty, *Eagle River, AK* ♦♦
Audrey Murphy, *Burnsville, MN* ♦♦
Sarah Jessica Nalls, *Victor, MT* ♦♦
Hanna Nielsen, *Castle Drive, UT* ♦♦♦
Nina Raatz, *Valley Springs, CA*
Coby Dalton Wittmuss, *Meridian, ID* ♦

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH K-12

Gerry Bradbury, *Newport, WA* ♦
Sarah Detlaff, *Thompson Falls, MT* ♦♦♦
John T. Gamble, *Carlin, NV* ♦
Nora F. Klick, *Simms, MT* ♦♦
Jarl Nerdrum, *Dillon, MT* ♦♦♦
Lucas Nichols, *Butte, MT* ♦♦♦
Blake Carter Sentman, *Cottage Grove, OR*
Jordan Taylor Sweeney, *Oakley, CA* ♦♦♦

TEACHING AND LEARNING IN EARLY CHILDHOOD

Emily Audet, *Great Falls, MT* ♦♦
Ashley Nicole DeShazer, *Libby, MT*
Katie Marcenko, *Fort Belknap, MT* ♦
ShaLee Maree Smith, *Great Falls, MT* ♦♦♦
Kathleen Wilber, *Kalispell, MT* ♦♦♦
Shannon StandingRock, *Rocky Boy, MT* ♦♦

BACHELOR OF APPLIED SCIENCE

BUSINESS

Jake Robert Ferris, *Dillon, MT*
Matthew Christopher Goings, *Fallon, NV* ♦
Axel Gonzales, *Lovelock, NV*
Kellen Tyler Jones, *Stevensville, MT*
Anna Jund, *Spring Creek, NV*
Yuzuki Kawai, *Tokyo, Japan*
Kaitlynn E. Lummer, *Cascade, MT* ♦♦
Flint McPherson, *Saint Ignatius, MT* ♦
Jhet William Murphy, *Helena, MT*
TaLyn M. Neville, *Hamer, ID* ♦
Dallas Parks, *Merrill, OR* ♦

Shelby Poorman, *Sealy, TX* ♦
Jacob Collins Rice, *Helena, MT*
Cecile Wasmer, *Lima, MT*
Rhett Varian, *Parkfield, CA* ♦♦

EDUCATION STUDIES

Dana E. Gumbert, *Clancy, MT* ♦♦♦
Chloe Ann Smith, *Bozeman, MT* ♦♦♦

HEALTH & HUMAN PERFORMANCE

Tanner Harrell, *Shepherd, ID* ♦♦
Morgan Sliter Taylor, *Clancy, MT*

HISTORY

Madeline Hall, *Middleton, ID* ♦

INTERDISCIPLINARY SOCIAL SCIENCE

Jessica Ali Elkins, *Helena, MT* ♦
Treygan Olson, *Chester, ID*

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS

Ember Casperson, *Blackfoot, ID* ♦♦
Selika Marie McGlynn, *Butte, MT* ♦♦
Zackery Moore, *Dillon, MT*
Victoria Pehlke, *Glasgow, ID* ♦♦

ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE

Jaden Kekainui Amasiu, *Kailua, HI*
Amelia Rose Beard, *Havre, MT*
Reece Buchanan, *Hamilton, MT* ♦
Alexis Cannon, *Lincoln, MT* ♦♦♦
Alena Crouch, *Merced, CA*
Capree Lilia Daniels, *Kalispell, MT*
Cheyenne Ellman, *Snohomish, WA*
Verge Amos Napoleon Fogle, *Lewistown, MT*
Jennifer Faye George, *Dillon, MT* ♦♦♦
Jaden J. Graham, *Lewistown, MT*
Peter Hamilton, *Billings, MT*
Sierra Hamilton, *East Helena, MT* ♦♦
Sydney Grace Johnson, *Helena, MT* ♦♦♦
Jazmin Kelly, *Twin Bridges, MT*
Jacqueline Elizabeth Marez, *Butte, MT*

Isabeau Emmily Palmer, *Northfield, NH*
Kori Rider, *Darby, MT*
Olivia Schaefer, *Frederick, CO*
Cecelia Tafoya, *Angel Fire, NM* ♦
Annika Thorstenson, *Libby, MT*
Mysha Ward, *Three Forks, MT*

ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE

BUSINESS

Justin Bunch, *Sprax, OR*
Kellen Tyler Jones, *Stevensville, MT*
Anna Jund, *Spring Creek, NV*
Jeniffer Kotten, *Sleepy Eye, MN* ♦
Flint McPherson, *Saint Ignatius, MT* ♦
Jarret D. O'Hair, *Livingston, MT*
Jacob C. Rice, *Helena, MT*
Tawni Schmauch, *Dillon, MT*
Rhett Varian, *Parkfield, CA* ♦♦
Jaxson Yanzick, *Boulder, MT* ♦♦

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Cailynn Bartlett, *Great Falls, MT* ♦♦♦
Haylee Christine Cannon, *Libby, MT* ♦♦♦
Madison Columbus, *Havre, MT* ♦
Jordan Brianne DeMarco, *Dillon, MT*
Kaelan Doherty, *Butte, MT* ♦
Alysia R. Elliott, *Chesaning, MI* ♦♦
Tilah Elizondo, *Spokane, WA* ♦♦♦
Tamara Joann Garland, *Great Falls, MT* ♦♦♦
Carly G. Gillott, *Foley, AL*
Mary Rose Harbert, *Helena, MT*
Jennifer E. Hoffman, *Pryor, MT* ♦♦
Joelee N. Hoover, *Forsyth, MT* ♦♦♦
Jadie Jackson, *East Helena, MT*
Hannah James, *Libby, MT*
Katie Marcenko, *Fort Belknap, MT* ♦
Rie Kinjo Martin, *Okinawa, Japan* ♦♦♦
Rena Nault, *Helena, MT*
Leah O'Connor, *Moscow, ID* ♦♦♦
Ellie Perrine, *Helena, MT*
Danielle Pouliot, *Helena, MT* ♦♦
Heavin-Lea Pruitt, *Chinook, MT* ♦♦
Macaulea Romsa, *Great Falls, MT* ♦♦
Deanne Schlecht, *Corvallis, MT*
Bailey Schuchard, *Harlowton, MT* ♦♦♦
Crystal Marie Sprague, *Cleveland, OH* ♦♦♦
Taeya Srb, *Great Falls, MT* ♦♦
Rebekah K. Townsend, *Moscow, ID* ♦♦

Julie Ann Urso, *Billings, MT* ♦♦
Kathleen Rosemarie Wilber, *Kalispell, MT* ♦♦♦

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

Beretta Flink, *Butte, MT* ♦
Brianna Jean Hansen, *Deer Lodge, MT* ♦♦♦
David House, *Helena, MT* ♦♦♦
Elizabeth Lalicker, *Butte, MT* ♦

EQUINE STUDIES

Kaitlynn E. Lummer, *Cascade, MT* ♦♦
TaLyn M. Neville, *Hamer, ID* ♦
Avery Owens, *Coeur D'Alene, ID* ♦

NATURAL HORSEMANSHIP

Marissa L. Martindale, *Oak Creek, CO* ♦
TaLyn M. Neville, *Hamer, ID* ♦
Shelby Poorman, *Sealy, TX* ♦

PRE-ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

RaeAnne Michelle Bendon, *Sheridan, MT* ♦
Claire Culbertson, *Belgrade, MT* ♦♦♦
Kadance Dallaserra, *Butte, MT* ♦
Trisha Kay Ericson, *Butte, MT* ♦♦
Krystal Forsness, *Wolf Point, MT*
Jessica Henckel, *Billings, MT* ♦♦♦
Creeshenee Crystal Hoar, *Butte, MT* ♦♦♦
Kayla Holland, *Drummond, MT*
Josiah Hull, *Glendive, MT* ♦♦♦
Mariah Humble, *Andover, MN* ♦♦♦
Corbin Jaques, *Kalispell, MT* ♦
Hadley Johnson, *Twin Bridges, MT* ♦♦
Faith Kelly, *Butte, MT*
Tori June Krieger, *Salmon, ID* ♦♦♦
Billie Jo Lynn Moeller, *Libby, MT*
Brenna Morris, *Potlatch, ID* ♦
Abbigail H. Nerdrum, *Dillon, MT* ♦
Miranda Rhodes, *Hamilton, MT*
Leah Rintala, *Butte, MT* ♦
Enrique Rivera, *Harlem, MT* ♦♦♦
Hailee Ellen Rowe, *Great Falls, MT* ♦
Riley Della Silva, *Helena, MT*
Chloe Ann Smith, *Bozeman, MT* ♦♦♦
Jazmine Evangeline Smith, *McMinnville, OR*
Kaitlin Stanghill, *Dillon, MT* ♦♦
Katherine G. Tucker, *Sheridan, MT* ♦♦♦
Sara Vandekop, *Helena, MT* ♦♦

PRE-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Kamree Mae Baumann, *Great Falls, MT* ♦♦♦
Brenner Bushfield, *Billings, MT*
Keaton Carter, *Belgrade, MT*
Rhiannon Greenwood, *Plains, MT* ♦
Payton Taylor Hagy, *Ephrata, WA* ♦♦
Tanner Harrell, *Shepherd, ID* ♦♦
Anna Hughes, *Sandpoint, ID* ♦♦♦
Marcus William Irvin, *Shelby, MT* ♦♦
Douglas Jackson, *Butte, MT*
Riley Miller, *Bozeman, MT* ♦♦♦
Lucas Nichols, *Newport, WA* ♦♦♦
Tony Johnny O'Neel, *Ephrata, WA*
Carlin Michael Onstad, *Helena, MT*
Isaiah Powell, *Battle Mountain, NV* ♦
Ezra J. Preston, *Missoula, MT*
Aydan M. Prieto, *Marion, MT*
Kathryn McKenzie Rondeau, *Dillon, MT* ♦♦♦
Kendyll Sommers, *East Helena, MT* ♦♦♦
Gracie S. Stanton, *Hamilton, MT* ♦♦♦
Jordan Taylor Sweeney, *Oakley, CA* ♦♦♦
Josie Thomas, *Gardiner, MT* ♦♦♦
Lilian Joy Tooke, *Helena, MT* ♦♦
Courtney Ann Tournahu, *Spring Creek, NV*
Elizabeth Varner, *Victor, MT*
Nicholas Werkmeister, *Butte, MT* ♦♦

CERTIFICATE

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Lakota Lea Becker, *Conrad, MT* ♦
Tamara Garland, *Great Falls, MT* ♦♦♦
Clare Newell, *Troy, MT*
Ellie Eve Perrine, *Helena, MT* ♦
Brooke Pittman, *Ennis, MT* ♦♦♦
Julie Ann Urso, *Billings, MT* ♦♦
Paige Eileen Werk, *Havre, MT* ♦♦♦

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Steve Mock, Ph.D.

Steve Mock's journey from a small farming community in Indiana to his retirement in Dillon, Montana, is a testament to a life filled with adventure and dedication. Graduating from Manchester College in 1977, Steve and his wife, Jan, pursued their love for the wilderness, eventually settling in Missoula in 1978. Steve's academic pursuits led him to earn a Ph.D. in Chemistry from Montana State University in 1989, later joining the faculty at the University of Montana Western in 1991.

During his tenure from 1991-2019, Dr. Mock taught a variety of courses, including chemistry, earth science, and rock climbing. His dedication extended beyond the classroom, serving on numerous committees and playing key roles in administrative searches including search committees for the Provost in 1997 and Chancellor in 1999. In 2001, he assumed the role of Dean of Arts and Sciences at UMW, while also directing the Experience One pilot project from 2001 to 2005.

Outside academia, Dr. Mock's passion for climbing led him to significant involvement with the Khumbu Climbing Center (KCC), a project of the Bozeman based Alex Lowe Charitable Foundation (ALCF) and Denali Rescue Volunteers (DRV). Serving as Co-Director of KCC for ten years, he played a vital role in training Nepali citizens in climbing and guiding. He also participated in Denali Ranger patrols, earning him the President's role at DRV in 2018.

In recognition of his contributions, Dr. Mock received the Alumni Honor award from Manchester University in 2023 and the National Park Service Hartzog Award in 2022.

Following his retirement in 2019, Steve and Jan continue to embrace their love for outdoor activities, remaining active in Dillon. They still enjoy hiking, hunting, canoeing, skiing, climbing and travel. Steve continues to immerse himself in the community by being part of the local Beaverhead Search and Rescue. Their journey exemplifies a life filled with exploration, service to others, and unwavering commitment.

LAND USE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

The University of Montana Western acknowledges that our campus sits on the ancestral homeland and traditional territory of many Indigenous Nations, including the Apsáalooke (Crow), Niimiipuu (Nez Perce), Shoshone, Bannock, Niitsitapi (Blackfeet), Séliš (Salish), and other Indigenous communities that have historically utilized this land. We recognize and honor the sovereignty of the Indigenous Nations geographically overlapping Montana. We are mindful of the impacts of colonization on traditional tribal homelands and acknowledge the disproportionate generational repercussions that historical actions have engendered upon American Indians. We invite all individuals to join us in fostering understanding and appreciation for Indigenous heritage and cultures.

VISION

The University of Montana Western will be recognized as the leader in innovative experiential education.

MISSION

As a leader and innovator in experiential education, the University of Montana Western educates undergraduate students through immersive practices in their field of study, strives for continuous improvement, and achieves evidence-supported student learning and achievement outcomes.

CHANCELLOR'S MEDALLION

Dating back to the middle ages, the Chain of Office, anchored by the Chancellor's Medallion, is a traditional part of the regalia of university presidents and chancellors that is worn during formal academic functions.

The University of Montana Western Chancellor's Medallion was first introduced at UMW's 122nd commencement ceremony. The medal, struck in silver and plated in gold, was made by Medalcraft Mint Inc., located in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Donated by the University of Montana Western Foundation, the medallion features the seal of the University of Montana Western and will be passed down to each future chancellor.



ACADEMIC REGALIA

Our tradition of the faculty wearing caps, gown and hoods had its origins in medieval universities of western Europe. The primary purpose was to distinguish persons of significant academic achievement. The hood has become a decorative and colorful guide to identifying the level of the degree, the academic field of learning and the institution from which the degree was received. Hoods are lined with the official colors of the university, and the hood trimming color indicates the subject to which the degree pertains.

CEREMONIAL MACE

The mace is a highly ornamented staff used during formal processions including today's commencement processional.

Many U.S. universities and colleges use the mace exclusively for their commencement ceremonies. It is usually carried by a college president, chancellor, provost or grand marshal.

The mace dates back to medieval times when it was used as a weapon. By the 16th century, it became a symbol of authority and was embraced as a ceremonial object by colleges and universities.

Montana Western's mace was created by the Industrial Arts Department in 1984 and its first documented use by a chief marshal was 1992.



TRADITIONAL HOOD COLORS

Agriculture	<i>Maize</i>
Economics	<i>Copper</i>
Education	<i>Light Blue</i>
Fine Arts	<i>Brown</i>
Environmental Studies	<i>Russet</i>
Library Science	<i>Lemon</i>
Music	<i>Pink</i>
Arts & Humanities	<i>White</i>
Physical Education	<i>Sage Green</i>
Public Health	<i>Salmon Pink</i>
Science	<i>Golden Yellow</i>
Veterinary Science	<i>Gray</i>
Business	<i>Drab</i>
Journalism	<i>Crimson</i>
Law	<i>Purple</i>
Philosophy	<i>Dark Blue</i>



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