



MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
NORTHERN

Northern Network News

The Official Newsletter of MSU-Northern - September 12, 2025

MSU-Northern Reaffirms Commitment to Dialogue and Safety Amid National Tragedy

“MSU-Northern is deeply saddened by the tragic assassination of Charlie Kirk in Utah. Our thoughts and condolences are with his family and loved ones during this difficult time. While MSU-Northern does not take a political position, we strongly condemn violence in all forms and remain committed to fostering a safe, respectful environment where dialogue and learning can thrive. Any statements made by our staff or faculty do not reflect the opinions of MSU-Northern.”

Greg Kegel, Chancellor
MSU-Northern

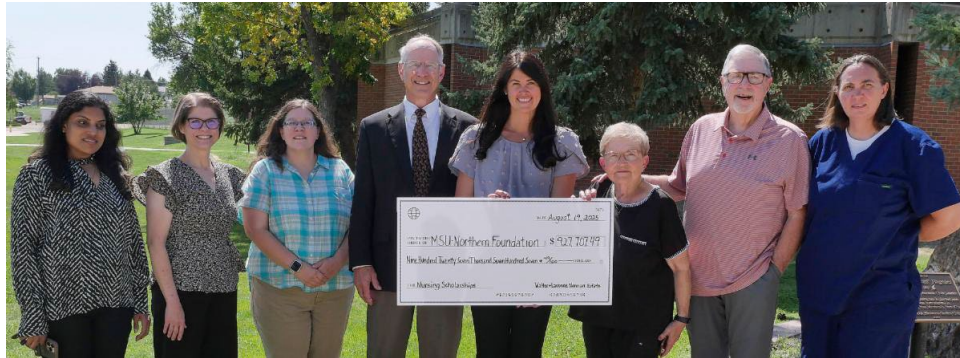
Bring the Spirit—Fall Sports are Here!



Photos by: Cassandra Olszewski and Jodi Kueffler

The Fall Athletic season is officially underway, and MSU-Northern fans are back in full force, cheering on the Lights and Skylights! Last week, the Chancellor sat down with the football team over dinner to welcome them to campus and challenge them to rise to the top—both in the classroom and on the field. Students, staff, and faculty—don't miss the action! Pack the stands at our home games and show your Northern pride all season long.

Walter & LaVonne Norman Endowed Scholarship Established for MSU-Northern Nursing Students



A new \$900,000 endowed scholarship, one of the largest in MSU-Northern's history, has been created to support nursing students for generations to come. The Walter & LaVonne Norman Endowed Scholarship honors the Dodson couple's legacy of hard work, faith, and generosity.

"This gift is transformational for our students and for healthcare in Montana," said Chancellor Greg Kegel. "The Normans' generosity will impact lives for generations, both the students who receive this scholarship and the countless patients they will go on to care for."

[Read more...](#)

Four Inducted into Northern's Athletic Hall of Fame



Photo by: Cassandra Olszewski

On Thursday, (Aug. 29), MSU-Northern inducted four outstanding individuals into Northern's Athletic Hall of Fame. This year's inductees are (L to R) Zach McKinley, Chris Mouat, Jacy (Thompson) Overstreet, and Daniel Murphy.

McKinley (2012–17) became Northern's all-time leading rusher, rewriting the football record books with his powerful running style. Mouat, Skylights head coach since 2005, is the program's winningest coach, guiding teams to five national tournaments and mentoring dozens of all-conference and academic award winners. Overstreet was a standout Skylights guard (2014–18), finishing 10th all-time in scoring and earning multiple conference and national honors. Murphy (1985–89) was a three-time all-conference forward who graduated as Northern's all-time scoring leader, still ranking third today.

[Read More...](#)

MSU-Northern Enhances Campus for Students



MSU-Northern spent the summer completing a wide range of campus improvements designed to enhance student life, safety, and learning spaces. Major projects included the second phase of the library roof replacement, an updated East Cowan parking lot, and a new ambulance entrance at the football field—boosting both convenience and safety.

Students will also notice upgraded electronics, HVAC, and lighting systems across campus, new carpet in Brockmann Center classrooms, and a refreshed stairwell in Mackenzie Hall. Renovations to Pershing Hall, structural work on the Metals Building, and a new teachers' lounge and resource lab in CH-316 further strengthen Northern's academic environment.

From energy-efficient upgrades in Brockmann to gym roof repairs and improved outdoor spaces, these projects ensure a more welcoming, reliable, and student-friendly campus for the year ahead.

MSU-Northern Hosts Kickoff of 2025 MPSEOC College Fair Tour



MSU-Northern proudly welcomed the opening event of the 2025 Montana Post-Secondary Educational Opportunities Council (MPSEOC) tour on Monday Sept. 8. The fair brought 67 colleges and organizations to campus and connected them with more than 300 students from 12 Hi-Line high schools. Hosting this event highlights Northern's role as a hub for educational opportunity across the region.

Co-ops Connect Northern Students with Top Employers

This summer, 36 MSU-Northern students gained real-world experience through competitive Co-op Internships with employers like US Border Patrol, Westmoreland Mining, Wartsila, RDO Equipment, Wabtec, Pape Machinery, and Torgerson's.

Coordinated by the Career Center, these co-ops provide hands-on training, professional connections, academic credit, and competitive pay—often with scholarships to offset future tuition. Many students go on to full-time careers with their co-op employers.

Over the coming year, we'll highlight stories from these 36 students, showcasing the power of experiential learning at MSU-Northern.

Get Involved... Join a Student Club or Organization

Joining a club is one of the best ways to get involved at MSU-Northern. Below is a list of student clubs on campus. Forming a new club and sharing your interests with other students is fairly simple. Just follow this procedure:

Audio & Electronics Club: Build, create, and innovate! Members are educated on various audio & electronic technical aspects, ideate new DIY projects to design, and collaborate on creating aesthetic products for personal, community or display use. Amateur programmers, audiophiles and anyone interested are welcome! Contact Advisor Aaron Riggin at aaron.riggin@msun.edu for more information.

Business Club: Launch your professional future! Network socially and professionally, develop professional skills, and bridge the gap between classroom theory and real-world success. Northern's Business Club is open to all majors ready to think like entrepreneurs. Contact Advisor Kenny Wait at kenneth.wait@msun.edu for more information.

ChiAlpha: Find your campus faith community! An international interdenominational Christian campus ministry focused on fellowship, worship, discipleship and mission. Join meaningful discussions, build lasting friendships and explore how Christian values apply to college life and beyond Contact Gary Garland at gagarland@msun.edu or havrexa@gmail.com for more information.

Civil Engineering Technology (CET): Build the future, literally! Encourages students and invites them to form a life-long affiliation with ASCE. CET supports and fosters the development of undergraduate college students as they prepare to enter the civil engineering technology profession, but is open to students in any major. For more information, contact Anna Bowker at anna.bowker@msun.edu

Collegiate Stockgrowers: Lead the future of agriculture! Influence policy, network with industry professionals, and develop leadership skills to transform tomorrow's agricultural landscape. For more information, contact Advisor Karyn Billmayer at karyn.billmayer@msun.edu.

D&D: Roll for adventure! Whether you are slaying dragons or solving puzzles, join fellow gamers for epic campaigns, board game nights, and friendships that extend beyond the table. Students, staff, faculty, and community members of all skill levels and time commitments are welcome. For more information, contact Casey Donovan at casey.donoven@msun.edu.

Healthy Living Advocates (HLA) Be the change for campus wellness! Lead health initiatives, organize wellness events and help create a healthier campus culture for everyone. For more information, contact Advisor Wanda Meredith at wanda.meredith@msun.edu.

KNMC: Your voice on the airwaves! Become a campus DJ, discover new music, and create the soundtrack for student life while building media skills and supporting the activities of KNMC, the college radio station located in the SUB - family and friends can tune in from anywhere in the world via our webstream at <http://www.msun.edu/knmc>. Contact Radio Station Manager, Dave Martens for more information 406*390*1238

Northern ACTs (Actors of Collaborative Theatre): Lights, camera, action! Bring stories to life on stage, develop your performance skills, and be part of the magic that transforms words into unforgettable experiences. Contact Advisor Grant Olson at grant.olson2@msun.edu for more information.

Northern Night Sky Association (NNSA): Explore the cosmos! Stargaze with high-powered telescopes, learn about astronomy and discover the wonders of the universe right here. For more information, contact Advisor Grant Bowker at grant.bowker@msun.edu.

Northern Pride: Celebrate diversity and build an inclusive campus! Create safe spaces, advocate for LGBTQ+ rights and foster a community where everyone belongs. Contact Advisor Kenny Wait at kenneth.wait@msun.edu for more information.

Nursing Club: Nurses in training, leaders in the making! Share study tips, gain leadership experience, and build a professional network to support your career. Students oversee and coordinate nursing club activities and events. For more information, contact Jenni Pula at jennifer.pula@msun.edu.

Professional Agricultural Student Organization (PAS): Cultivate your agricultural future! Connect with agribusiness leaders, compete nationally, and develop the skills to feed the world sustainably. Promote agriculture and assist with campus events and fundraisers. For more information, contact Advisor Karyn Billmayer at karyn.billmayer@msun.edu.

Rodeo Club: Saddle up for adventure! Whether you compete or just love the western lifestyle, join us for rodeos, fundraisers, team activities and authentic cowboy culture. For more information, contact Doug Kallenberger at douglas.kallenberger@msun.edu.

Residence Hall Association (RHA): Make on-campus living awesome! Have a direct voice in residence hall policies, plan epic events, and create the campus living experience you want. Any student residing in the Residence Halls is welcome to attend the meeting. For more information, contact Advisor Taryn Wallon at taryn.wallon@msun.edu.

SkillsUSA: Master your trade, lead your future! Compete nationally, develop professional skills, and build leadership abilities employers crave. Participate in educational, vocational, civic, recreational, and social activities. For more information, contact Advisor Jack Bieger at jack.bieger@msun.edu

Student Education Association (MSU–Northern SEA): Shape the future of education! Connect with aspiring teachers on educational matters and advocate for policies that transform learning. For more information, contact Jennifer Anderson at jennifer.anderson32@msun.edu.

Student Family Association (SFA): Family-friendly campus community! Connect with other students, organize family-friendly events and advocate for your needs in your living environment. Students living in the Student Family Housing units on campus are welcome to join. For more information, contact Taryn Wallon at taryn.wallon@msun.edu.

Sweetgrass Society: Honor tradition, build bridges! Celebrate Native American culture through powwows, mentorship and cultural events that educate and unite our diverse campus community. Both Native American and Non-Native students are welcome to join. For more information, visit their webpage: <https://www.msun.edu/lri/SweetgrassSociety/index.aspx>

ASMSUN is looking Council members:

Activities & Events Council is a student-led organization that plans and organizes campus activities and events for the student body, promoting community engagement, fostering school spirit and building leadership skills. Utilizing funds from the Student Activity Fee, the council plans programs such as Bowling Nights, Karaoke, on-campus concerts, dances, game nights, and movie nights.

Intramurals & Recreation Council is a student-led organization that promotes healthy lifestyles and wellness through indoor and outdoor activities and events. Utilizing funds from the Student Activity Fee, the council plans 3:3 basketball, spike ball tournaments, pool and darts competitions, and supports free skiing at Bear Paw Ski Bowl, open skate at the Havre Ice Dome and other outdoor recreation events.

Recycling & Sustainability Council is a student-led organization that oversees campus recycling efforts and supports broader sustainability initiatives such as the clothing donation program located in the Career Center and the residential living donation program located in the Community Center.

11th Annual Suicide Awareness Walk

The Northern community gathered at 6:30 p.m. in the courtyard between Cowan Hall and the Gym for the 11th Annual Suicide Awareness Walk. At 7 p.m., speakers shared messages of hope and remembrance, followed by a gentle one-mile loop around campus. Participants designed shirts, made banners, shared memories, and walked together in support of suicide awareness and prevention.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Festival Days Parade – Sept. 20

Join us for Havre's annual Festival Days Parade on Saturday, September 20! We encourage all campus groups to participate—whether you have a float or not, feel free to walk and represent Northern. As the parade sponsor, MSU-Northern will be lining up at the front of the parade, gathering near Rod's Drive. In around 8:30 a.m. Please enter the lineup through the High School parking lot. There's no specific order for Northern's floats, so they'll assemble as they arrive, with the Northern Goose leading the way. If you're a club or organization, please bring your own candy to hand out. Let's make this parade one to remember!

Calling All Musicians!

It's time to dust off those instruments and join the MSU-Northern Community Orchestra! Whether you're a seasoned player or haven't played in years, come join the fun, make music, and be part of something special!

We rehearse Wednesday nights from 6–8 PM in the Havre High School band room. This fall, we're gearing up for a Jazz Orchestra Concert in November (exact date TBD), and we'd love to add some new sounds to the mix—especially trombone and saxophone players!

And that's not all—second semester, we'll transform into the pit orchestra for an incredible collaborative production of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* with MAT and Havre High.

Be a Lifesaver—Join the Blood Drive!

There's still time to sign up for MSU-Northern's Red Cross Blood Drive on Wednesday, September 17, from 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. Our donor numbers are running low, and every pint truly makes a life-saving difference.

Roll up your sleeve, make an impact, and walk away knowing you've helped save lives. Plus—you'll get a free T-shirt as a thank-you!
Sign up today at 1-800-RED CROSS or www.redcrossblood.org (Sponsor Code: msu). You can also contact me directly, and I'll get you on the schedule.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MSU-Northern Disc Golf Tournament – Sept. 12

Swing by anytime between 12–8 PM and join the fun! Meet us at Hole 1 (north of the SUB parking lot)—no experience needed. We'll have free instruction and equipment available, so everyone can play. Prizes for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place: Custom MSUN discs! Whether you're a pro or trying disc golf for the first time, come out, relax, and enjoy the course with friends.

NEXT WEEK

Friday, September 12

- Last Saturday Market, 8-12 noon, Town
- MSU-Northern Disc Golf Tournament – 12-8 PM, SUB Parking lot
- Skylights Volleyball vs Valley City State University - 7:00 PM

Saturday, September 13

- Lights Football vs Dickinson State University - 12:00 PM
- Skylights Volleyball vs Mayville State University - 5:00 PM

Wednesday, September 17

- Red Cross Blood Drive - 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Friday, September 19

- Skylights Volleyball @ Dickinson State University - 6:00 PM

Saturday, September 20

- Festival Days Parade – 10:00 AM
- Lights Football @ The College of Idaho - 12:00 PM
- Skylights Volleyball @ Bismarck State College - 1:00 PM

Friday, September 26

- Skylights Volleyball vs Dakota State University - 7:00 PM

Saturday, September 27

- Lights Football vs Eastern Oregon University - 12:00 PM
- Skylights Volleyball vs Bellevue University - 5:00 PM

MSU-NORTHERN

TidBit

By: William J. Lanier

(#439) Hall of Famer Jay Pivec

The week before last, Northern held its annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony in the Student Union Ballroom! The induction included Northern greats, Danny Murphy, Zach McKinley, Jacy (Thompson) Overstreet, and Coach Chris Mouat! The Northern Athletic Hall of Fame now has 99 individuals and four teams. Here is a link to see all the previous inductees:

[Hall of Fame - Montana State University Northern](#)

Athletics

One of the many memorable moments that evening was when former Northern Lights Coach, Jay Pivec, spoke a few words on behalf of Danny Murphy!

Coach Pivec coached Danny all four years he was a Light!

Coach Pivec himself has been inducted into two Hall of Fames, the Minnesota College Athletic Conference Hall of Fame (2002) and the NJCAA Men's Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame (2010). In addition to having 605 collegiate wins as a Head Coach, he worked for the San Antonio Spurs and wrote a book, "The Book of Piv." (see picture below).

Coach Pivec has been featured in three previous NNN TidBits:

[NNN March 27-2009.pdf](#)

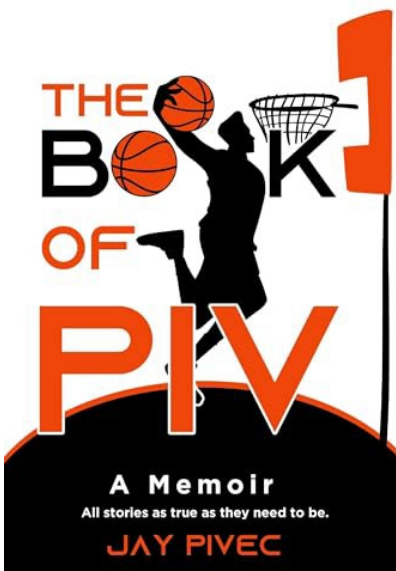
[NNN April 09-2010.pdf](#)

[NNN February 03-2012.pdf](#)

To the right is a picture of Danny Murphy at the Hall of Fame induction. From left to right, Tim Woodard (Danny's High School Coach), Danny Murphy, and Coach Jay Pivec.



Here is a picture of the cover of Coach Pive's book. It is an excellent book. Chapter 10 is dedicated to his time coaching at Northern Montana College.



You all make Northern Proud!

Remember, if you have an idea for the NNN TidBit, send me an e-mail at wjlanier1963@yahoo.com

Visit our website

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