Dear Colleagues,

I hope your holidays were restful and rejuvenating, offering time to relax and connect with loved ones. Thanks to your unwavering dedication, we achieved significant academic successes in 2024, and I'm excited to continue building on this momentum as we strive to deliver high-quality education to all MSU students.

The start of a new semester, like the start of a new year, brings opportunities for reflection and renewed purpose. This year, let's aim for even greater progress in student persistence.

Our Fall-to-Spring persistence rate continues to show steady gains, currently running a percentage point ahead of last year, which was improved over prior years—a significant accomplishment! This progress reflects the combined efforts of our faculty and staff, and I sincerely thank you for your ongoing committment to our core mission.

Spring semester, though, often presents additional considerations associated with student attrition, thus your continued commitment to student success and engagement remains essential. I encourage you to make use of available resources such as navMSU, Early Alerts, and tutoring services to help students persist and reach their educational goals.

As we support students' success, it's essential that we prepare them for the rapidly evolving landscape of technology in society and the workforce. One transformative development is the rise of generative AI, which presents both challenges and opportunities in teaching and learning.

The Center for Faculty Excellence (CFE) offers a comprehensive guide on generative AI, including how it works, the potential benefits for students and strategies for integrating AI into your teaching practices. The guide includes sample syllabus language to help establish clear expectations for students. You can also point your students to the Library's website Using Generative AI: A Guide for Students, which covers ethics, prompt writing and citing AI.

If you would like explore the use of generative AI further, please register for the CFE event on Feb. 5: [Exploring In-Class Exercises and Lesson Plans that Integrate Generative AI](#).

Finally, 2025 marks the 75th anniversary of the Renne Library building. Please join us in kicking off the new year at the [MSU Library's Annual Open House](#) TODAY, Jan. 13, from 3-6 p.m. This event is a great opportunity to learn about the library's services and resources designed to support your work and enhance student success.

Thank you again for your dedication and enthusiasm as we embark on this new semester. I wish you a rewarding and successful Spring Semester 2025.

With sincere gratitude,

Bob

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

Upcoming Events
Feb. 4: Last Day to drop a course without a W grade
Feb. 11: 7 p.m., Brock LaMeres, Provost's Distinguished Lecture, MOR
Feb. 14: 9 a.m., Founders Day Faculty Awards, Inspiration Hall, NAH
Feb. 26: Spring Career Fair, SUB
May 9: Spring 2025 Commencement