



Montana Technological University and the Environmental Engineering department presents the key note speaker list for the technical workshop portion of our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration:



**Chancellor Les Cook, Montana Tech**

Dr. Les P. Cook took office as the 12th chancellor of Montana Technological University on July 1, 2019. Since then, he has realigned the leadership team and cabinet to be a shared governance model, successfully hired several new senior leaders, and involved a broad and diverse group of employees, students, and others in leading numerous strategic efforts.

Together these teams have completed a new strategic plan, *Deliberately Distinct: Positioning Montana Tech for the Future*; finalized and begun implementing a strategic enrollment plan, established a new brand promise and accelerated brand and messaging campaign, developed a focused master plan and completed a campus space analysis that will one day lead to greater campus vibrancy and aesthetic appeal, departmental synergies, and overall efficiencies.

Before joining the Montana Tech Family, Cook spent 16 years at Michigan Technological University in Houghton, Michigan. At Michigan Tech, he held numerous leadership positions, including vice president for strategic university partnerships, vice president for student affairs and advancement, vice president for student affairs, and vice provost and dean of students. Before Michigan Tech, Dr. Cook held positions at the University of the Pacific, University of Utah, and Salt Lake Community College.

Dr. Cook earned a doctorate of education in educational leadership from Brigham Young University, a master's degree in social science, and a bachelor of science in political science from Utah State University. Dr. Cook also completed Harvard University's Institute on Educational Management.

Cook is actively involved with several professional and student service associations. He is the past chair of the Foundation Board of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA), former region IV-East vice president, and NASPA national board member. Cook serves as a trustee of the LeaderShape Institute Board of Trustees and has long served as a lead faculty member. Previously Cook served as chair of the chief student affairs officer's group

for the Michigan Association of State Universities, on the board for Student Affairs Today, is a lifetime member of the National Orientation Directors Association, has been an active member of the Association for Public and Land Grant Universities (APLU), and the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).

Cook is actively involved in the Butte community. He serves on the executive board of the Butte Silver Bow Chamber of Commerce; is a co-lead for the Resilient Butte Project; serves on BSB local economic development group and is a past member of the Butte Health Task Force.

Les and his wife, Stephanie, have two grown children: Cole and his wife Allie live and work in Phoenix, Arizona, and their daughter, Adison, is a physical therapist residing in Salt Lake City.



**Dave Vaccari, PhD, PE, BCEE, President, American Academy of Environmental Engineers & Scientist**

Dr. Vaccari is Emeritus Professor of Environmental Engineering at Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, New Jersey, and President of the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists. He has bachelors, masters and doctorate degrees in environmental science and a masters in chemical engineering, all from Rutgers University. He founded the environmental engineering program at Stevens in 1987. He has been active in ABET accreditation since 1999, serving as program evaluator, commissioner of ETAC and EAC, and as a member of the ABET Board of Directors.

His specialization is in wastewater treatment, particularly gravity sedimentation and nutrient removal. He branched out from there into mathematical modeling in various areas, focusing on empirical nonlinear statistical modeling. He worked with NASA on recycling on long-term space missions, and wrote a textbook, "Environmental Biology for Engineers and Scientists." These projects drew him into the sustainability arena, where he worked on international efforts to improve the utilization of our limited global phosphorus resources.

Dr. Vaccari is a licensed professional engineer, a Board-Certified Environmental Engineer, and is listed in the Who's Who in Environmental Engineering and Science.



**Provost Nosa Egiebor, PhD, PE, Montana Tech**

Dr. Nosa O. Egiebor joined Montana Technological University as provost and executive vice chancellor on July 31, 2023. Dr. Egiebor has a background in Chemical and Environmental Engineering with a Ph.D. in metallurgical engineering from Queen's University in Ontario, Canada. He specializes in process engineering and environmental aspects of mineral processing and extractive metallurgy. He started his academic career at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada, and was subsequently appointed as the U.S. Department of Energy's Samuel P. Massie Chair of Excellence Professor in Environmental Engineering, with tenure at Tuskegee University in Alabama. Serving also as program director, he led the development of the environmental engineering degree program at Tuskegee University.

Dr. Egiebor is a renowned international educator and researcher who has served as visiting professor at top universities around the world, including at the Technical University of Berlin in Germany, Ankara University in Turkey, and the International Institute for Water and Environmental Engineering in Burkina Faso. He also previously served as

the environmental engineering expert member of the National Research Council's (NRC's) Committee on Assembled Chemical Weapons Demilitarization, a congressionally mandated committee of NRC. He has received numerous national and international professional awards, such as the U.S. Department of Energy Award for Outstanding Research & Educational Accomplishments, the Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship Award in Germany, and the U.S. Fulbright Scholar Award.

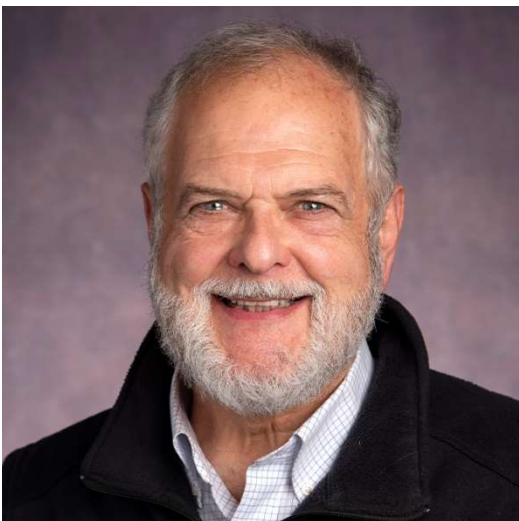
As a researcher, Dr. Egiebor has secured over \$30 million in extramural funding as grants and contracts from various national and international funding agencies. He has published over 140 scholarly and peer-reviewed articles and technical papers, and has delivered numerous lectures and oral presentations at conferences, workshops, and symposia worldwide.

### **Elizabeth Erickson, Water & Environmental Technologies**



Elizabeth Erickson is a Founder, Vice President and Principal Hydrogeologist at Water and Environmental Technologies (WET). She specializes in hydrogeologic investigation and data interpretation, geochemical analysis, ground water and surface water modeling, and investigation, and remediation and monitoring at contamination sites. Elizabeth is an experienced professional on Superfund or Superfund related projects; principally ground water flow and contaminant transport issues. She has studied environments from arid high desert climates to tropical settings and worked on a wide range of sites from coal fired generation plants, and manufactured gas plants, to wastewater treatment operations with a range of contaminants from fuels, to chlorinated solvents, to metals. She has developed multiple three-dimensional, animated, hydrogeologic contaminant plume models and 3-D visualizations, many of which have been used in litigation. She is actively involved in remedial design, data interpretation, geochemical evaluation, and site characterization of multiple power plant sites in Wyoming and Utah and several Superfund sites in Montana. She is

experienced in public outreach and organization, technical data presentation and meeting facilitation. Elizabeth is responsible for management and oversight services for a multi-faceted Institutional Controls Program for a large Superfund site in southwest Montana including negotiation, technical and oversight services for all aspects of a settlement between the municipality, USEPA, MDEQ and the Potentially Responsible Party (PRP).



### **Merlyn Hough, PE, BCEE, Past President, Air & Waste Management Association**

Merlyn Hough, MSCE Civil and Environmental Engineering, PE, currently serves as Adjunct Faculty at Oregon State University and University of Portland. He served for 16 years as the Executive Director of the Lane Regional Air Protection Agency, was former director and Co-President at the National Association of Clean Air Agencies and served as the President of the Air & Waste Management Association.

The Air & Waste Management Association (A&WMA) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan professional organization that enhances knowledge and expertise by providing a neutral forum for information exchange, professional development, networking opportunities, public education, and outreach to more than 6000 environmental professionals in 65 countries. A&WMA also promotes global environmental responsibility and increases the effectiveness of organizations to make critical decisions that benefit society.

The Mission of A&WMA is to assist in the professional development and critical environmental decision-making of our members to benefit society.

The core Purpose of A&WMA is to improve environmental knowledge and decisions by providing a neutral forum for exchanging information.



**Beth Fifield Hodgson, PE, F.NSPE, Current PNWIS President**

BIO: Beth Fifield Hodgson, PE is the Founder and Principal Engineer of Spring Environmental (Spokane, WA) and has over 30 years of experience in environmental, safety and chemical management, including air quality permitting, PSM and risk assessments, stormwater and waste water permitting, solid and hazardous waste permitting and management, industrial hygiene monitoring, and safety planning and training. She earned dual degrees in Chemical Engineering and Chemistry from Clarkson University (Potsdam, NY) and masters of engineering in Environmental Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (Troy, NY). Furthermore, Ms. Hodgson is a licensed professional engineer in the states of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington.

Ms. Hodgson has been a member of A&WMA since 1991 serving as chapter president of the Oregon and Inland Northwest chapters, the treasurer of the Inland Northwest chapter, the chair of the PNWIS annual conferences in 1999 (Richland, WA) and 2014 (Spokane, WA), and a member of the 2019 AWMA nominating committee. She is involved with PNWIS because it offers a great opportunity to network with other professionals in the air quality field and keep apprised of technical innovations in environmental controls and permitting.

## **Other speakers:**

- Kumar Ganesan, PhD, Montana Tech
- Karen Helfrich, Environmental Engineering IAB Board President, Pioneer Technical Services (Class of '09 & '11)
- Angela Lueking, PhD, Vice Chancellor of Research & Dean of Graduate Studies
- Ken Lee, PhD, PE, Dean – School of Mines and Engineering Montana Tech
- Jaime Hepler, Chief Executive Officer, Montana Tech Foundation
- Chris Dorrington, Director, Montana Department of Environmental Quality
- Glenn Eurick, Environmental Issues & Images Group LLC (Class of '77)
- Jeff Chaffee, Chaffee Consulting, LLC (Class of '77)
- Hal Robbins, Bison Engineering, Inc.
- John Haney, Haley & Aldrich
- Stephen Coe, PE, Water & Environmental Technologies (Class of '93)
- Robin Bullock, PhD, Professor, Montana Tech
- Kevin Mitchum, Silbanye-Stillwater (Class of '97)
- Ross Monasmith, Pioneer Technical Services
- John LaFave, Montana Bureau of Mines & Geology
- Brad Rutherford, Water & Environmental Technologies
- Chelle Carney, Water & Environmental Technologies
- Rachel Hadley, Water & Environmental Technologies
- Jacob Dillon, Crowley Fleck
- Steve Dent, PhD, CDM Smith
- Casey Phillips, Nucor
- Jack Stranda, Montana Resources
- Kevin McDonough, UCC Environmental
- Raja Nagisetty, PhD, Professor Montana Tech with students: Megan Olson, Nathan Cook & Alex Leone, Montana Tech
- Jin Yong Choi, PhD, Professor Montana Tech