

## MSU honors top faculty and staff

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Dedicated teachers, dynamic researchers and faculty devoted to the betterment of Montana are among the winners of the top Montana State University 2014 faculty awards announced this week. The annual awards honor achievement in faculty research, teaching, outreach and creative projects. The awards will be presented at the MSU Spring Convocation, set for 9 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 7, in Reynolds Recital Hall.

### Excellence in Online Teaching Award

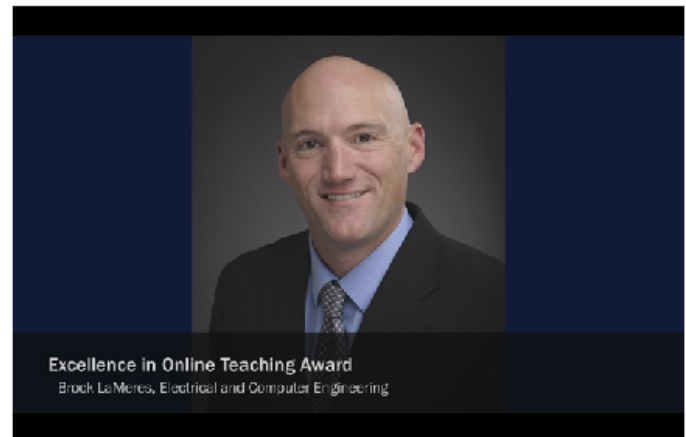
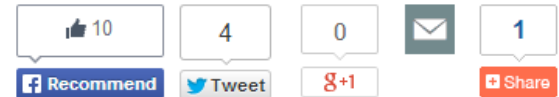
**Brock LaMeris**, electrical and computer engineering, has won the Excellence in Online Teaching Award honoring faculty who have provided outstanding teaching, course development, mentoring of students and service to online education. The prize comes with a \$2,000 honorarium.

In addition to receiving exceptional teaching evaluations for his online courses, LaMeris has produced empirical data comparing the learning effectiveness of online courses to those delivered using the traditional face-to-face method. His work was recently published in the IEEE Transactions for Engineering Education, the most prestigious journal in his field for education-related research. LaMeris also developed "remote laboratory" technology that allows students to control laboratory equipment on campus from any other computer. It allows students to complete the laboratory component of a course without having to come to campus and promises to expand the online offerings of engineering courses throughout the state. LaMeris has received funding from the National Science Foundation, NASA and the Montana Space Grant Consortium to support his online efforts. In addition to working with online learning at MSU, LaMeris also runs a research program that was recently awarded a grant from NASA to develop a satellite containing a new, radiation tolerant computer that his team built.

### Wiley Award for Meritorious Research and Creativity

**Joseph Shaw**, electrical and computer engineering, has won this year's Charles and Nora L. Wiley Faculty Award for Meritorious Research and Creativity. He will receive \$2,000. Sponsored by the MSU Alumni Foundation, the prize is given in honor of the Wileys, who were pioneer ranchers in eastern Montana.

Shaw is a leader in the development and application of optical remote sensing systems to study the natural earth environment, including radiometers, polarimeters, and LIDARS, or Light Detection and Ranging systems, as well as the photography and science of optical phenomena in nature. Recently, Shaw's work in the Optical Remote Sensor Laboratory has sought to harness research on infrared imaging of clouds to help NASA develop a better method for communicating with its vehicles in the far reaches of the solar system. Shaw is known for a variety of projects that range from use of LIDARS for applications ranging from measuring clouds in climate science to mapping invasive lake trout for protection of Yellowstone Lake. He has led his group's development of optical aurora detectors to send cell phone text messages alerting people when they can see an aurora. Shaw is a fellow in the Optical Society of America and the International Society of Optics and Photonics, both organizations representing researchers in fields ranging from vision science to fiber optics to lasers and remote sensing. Shaw is serving as the director of the Optical Technology Center at MSU, the organization that seeks to promote and harness the university's educational opportunities to help support and grow the fields of optical science and engineering.



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