Miles Community College honored two faculty and one staff member during the 76th Commencement Ceremony held on Saturday, May 7. Katrina Luther and Rachel Finn, Nursing Instructors, received the Excellence in Teaching Award for their innovation, development, and implementation of the new nursing curriculum. Erin Niedge, Dean of Enrollment Management and Educational Support Services, received the Staff Excellence and Innovation Award for her work with Pioneer Express, which is a program implemented this past year at Custer County District High School where students can receive their first 30 credits (and ultimately a Certificate of Applied Science in General Studies) of college core while in high school utilizing dual enrollment and early start courses through MCC.

The MCC Rodeo Team, led by Head Coach Wally Badgett, finished strongly in the Big Sky Region in May. Three freshmen athletes will be attending the College National Finals Rodeo in Casper, Wyoming on June 12-18: Jayci Lamphere (Belle Fourche, South Dakota) in breakaway roping, Wyatt Foulger (Kinsey, Montana) for team roping, and Connor Murnion (Jordan, Montana) in bull riding.

The MCC Baseball team made it to super regional district play for the first time since moving two years ago to the Empire Conference at the Division I level within Region IX. This is a great accomplishment for Head Coach Jeff Brabant and his team.

Vice President of Administrative Services, Lisa Smith, has been moving forward with developing and refining the Facilities Master Plan with the Facilities Master Plan Committee. This is a long-range plan for the future development of campus. Additionally, final architectural plans are being finalized for the renovations of the newly purchased National Guard Armory building which will house the Heavy Equipment Operations (HEO) Program and CDL course.

The expansion of the Heavy Equipment Operations Program has occurred as demand has soared this spring. The program was able to originally hold 15 students. This fall’s cohort has been increased to 25 to accommodate the influx of applicants to the program. Students in the HEO Program complete the CDL course as well.

MCC is kicking off its first year of conference housing and the first large group to be on campus this summer is the Montana football players who are competing in the Knights of Columbus Badlands Bowl. The Montana team always stays and practices in Miles City the week of the game. This is the first year that MCC has been able to house the team and is excited to have them on campus.