Miles Community College (MCC) will hold its 76th Commencement Ceremony on Saturday, May 7 at the Kailey Gymnasium where 127 degrees will be conferred. This year’s speaker is Jim Thompson, owner and operator of Creative Broadcast Services, Inc., headquartered in Spearfish, South Dakota. Jim has been inducted into the South Dakota Sports Hall of Fame, The Black Hills Stock Show Hall of Fame, and has been selected Sportscaster of the Year in South Dakota three times. Sally J. Cooley will be inducted as this year’s Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame recipient. Beginning in 1994, Sally capitalized on MCC’s dual enrollment offerings during her time at Custer County District High School. She attended MCC for one year out of high school then continued and earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in 2000 from the University of Montana. In 2005, Sally received her Juris Doctorate from the Gonzaga University School of Law. Sally became a Deputy State Appellate Public Defender in July 2012 for Idaho. She provides pro bono work for Boise’s Stand Down for Homeless Veterans, is an Ask-A-Lawyer Volunteer Attorney, volunteers with Habitat for Humanity, Rake Up Boise, is a blood and platelet donor for the American Red Cross, and is the Roosevelt Elementary School PTA Outdoor Garden Coordinator.

MCC students were recognized on Tuesday, April 26 for their academic achievement during the annual Awards Banquet, sponsored by the Associated Students of Miles Community College. Awards ranged from honor graduate recognition to athletic all-region awards. Four students were named this year’s Outstanding Graduates: Taylor Carson, Associate of Science-General Studies; Brittany Moats, Associate of Arts-General Studies; Tim Bouchard, Associate of Applied Science-Network and PC Maintenance; and Ashley Herzog, Associate of Science-Nursing.

This year marks the 45th anniversary of Miles Community College’s Nursing Program. MCC’s Nursing Program was founded by Mildred “Millie” Hom. Millie graduated high school from Sacred Heart High School in Miles City and then she worked as a nurse’s aide with the Presentation Sisters and later graduated from the Presentation System for Nursing. She then attended Montana State University in Bozeman where she earned her bachelor’s and master’s degree in nursing. Millie returned to Miles City where she coordinated, through the state, a nursing program called the Associated Registered Nursing Degree program at MCC. MCC’s nursing graduates will go through their annual pinning ceremony on May 6.

MCC successfully completed its Ad Hoc Evaluation by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities on April 11-12. The preliminary report from the evaluator found that four of the six recommendations were fully met with the other two recommendations being extended into the mid-cycle report of year three for further development. MCC remains in good standing.