

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

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CAMPUS REPORT | Board of Regents Meeting | January 13-14, 2020 | Helena

GFC MSU students Dylan Maxwell, Victoria Rose, Elise Conter, and Anne Rice participated in a three-day [biomedical research workshop](#) led by MSU researchers Dr. Christa Merzdorf and Dr. Jennifer Forecki. The students utilized zebra fish embryos and monitored their development after exposure to environmental chemicals such as alcohol or caffeine. The workshop was free for the students and is supported through a National Institutes of Health grant geared towards inspiring students at two-year and tribal colleges to pursue biomedical career pathways.

Montana Campus Compact recently named Great Falls College MSU student, Charmaine (Charlie) Engum, as a Montana Student Volunteer Award winner. She serves as President of GFC MSU's Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Treasurer of the GFC MSU Associated Students, leads Service Saturdays, organizes campus blood drives, collaborates to provide Thanksgiving meals for low-income students, and volunteers for the campus food pantry weekly. Charlie works to ensure all of the students at GFC MSU have the information and opportunity to be successful in the classroom and in life.

Great Falls College MSU, in partnership with the United Way of Cascade County and local school districts and industries, hosted a [L.I.F.E. Pathway Event](#) for students in grades 8 through 12 at the Montana Expo Park. Students experienced a hands-on approach to a variety of career field options and had the opportunity to visit with people currently working in the various industries.

During the week of November 11, GFC MSU honored its [veteran](#) and active duty students with a variety of events, including a speaker and panel discussion focusing on substance abuse and readjustment, both significant issues among veterans. The Veterans Success Center hosted an Appreciation Luncheon where Dr. Cherie McKeever, anatomy and physiology faculty, was recognized as the 2019 Outstanding Veteran Support Award recipient.

As part of the monthly Symphonic Preview, GFC MSU welcomed Béla Fleck, 15-time Grammy Award winning banjoist, to campus. Faculty, staff, students, and community members were treated to a look into Fleck's life and enjoyed his beautiful music. Fleck was the featured artist for the Great Falls Symphony's "Americana."

Dr. Leanne Frost, General Studies Division Director, and Chris Mee, Computer Information Technology Program Director, attended the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education (NICE) Conference in Phoenix, AZ, where they accepted Great Falls College MSU's official designation as a [National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education](#).

The Great Falls College MSU Native American Student Group hosted the College's first Native American Naming Ceremony in November. Through the transfer ceremony, Dugan Coburn and Larry Ground bestowed names to six students and community members. The Native American Student Group also provided the hosting site for a Robe Blessing Ceremony for the new Longfellow School. The Robe will serve as a Winter Count for the school, which is a pictorial calendar in which an image is displayed each year and used as a way to pass down knowledge through encouraging discussion of the event displayed. Following the Ceremony and Blessing, a community feed took place with over 100 people eating and visiting. The Native American Student Group plans on more Cultural activities throughout the year, including the end of year Eagle Feather Ceremony, which takes place just before the College's Commencement Ceremony.

GFC MSU's 2019 Newman Civic Fellow, Julius Scott, recently attended the Newman Civic Fellows Annual Convening in Boston, MA. The event, held at the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate, offered attendees the opportunity to experience the congressional process while networking with Fellows from colleges and universities across the country. The college is currently searching for its next Newman Civic Fellow.

GFC MSU was honored to host an evening with Montana author, [Ednor Therriault](#). The event, a collaboration between the college, Humanities Montana, and Cassiopeia Books, provided attendees with an in-depth look at his most recent book, "Seven Montanas: A Journey in Search of the Soul of the Treasure State."