

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

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CAMPUS REPORT | Board of Regents Meeting | May 20-21, 2020 |



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Great Falls College MSU is giving back to the medical community who has given so much to it. When Benefis Health System and the Great Falls Clinic reached out for equipment, the [respiratory therapy and surgical technology programs](#) stepped up to help by providing ventilators and surgical grade masks. The nursing programs contributed several surgical quality masks, protective masks, and gloves to the City-County Health Department. The Weaver Library put its 3D printer to work to provide [local healthcare workers](#) with [10 reusable masks](#). We are grateful to be a part of such an amazing community.

The new Dental Clinic at Great Falls College is moving forward on schedule. Architects are working on detailed construction documents, and it will go out for bid mid-summer. A website is being created to include architect renderings, along with a 'fly-through' of the new facility. If all goes as planned, it is hoped we will break ground in early September.

Great Falls College computer technology student, Kody Gilleo, received an Award for Research in Engineering and Science (ARES) Grant through the Montana Space Grant Consortium and used it to program a smart plug to assist cystic fibrosis patient, 7-year-old Emily Canine, with her breathing treatments. Twice daily, she needs to clear her lungs using a lifejacket-type vest that rapidly inflates and deflates to shake loose the mucus built up in her lungs followed by coughing exercises to release the mucus. During her treatments, Emily watches her Roku and often forgets to do her coughing exercises when the compressor periodically stops. Her parents, Dr. Brenda Canine, a biology faculty member at Great Falls College, and Chris Canine, an electrical engineer, thought it would be neat to make the compressor and Emily's Roku talk to each other. The Roku now pauses the show when it is time to do the coughing exercises. "The neat thing is this is all open source coding anyone can use it." Steve Robinett, Computer Technology program chair and faculty, said. The project allowed Gilleo to get real-world experience while helping Emily and her parents.

Great Falls College MSU has once again been designated a [Military Friendly School](#) by the organization Military Friendly. It is a privilege to work with our active military and veteran students and their families.

Great Falls College hosted elementary and middle school choir students as they prepared for a concert at West Elementary School in February. Under the direction of Great Falls College professor Cindy Stevens, the choir performed "[America My Home](#)." The concert is one of four in the state sponsored by the Montana Choral Directors Association.

The Montana Board of Nursing recently approved Great Falls College MSU to offer a [part-time practical nurse track](#) allowing certified nursing assistants and others interested in advancing in their careers to continue working while pursuing a career in nursing. It is hoped this will help with the shortage of licensed practical nurses at critical access hospitals and other medical facilities across the state and nation.

The college hosted more than 300 K-12 students for the [2020 Montana Region II Science & Engineering Fair](#). It was a treat to have these incredibly bright kids from around the region on campus.

Great Falls College is excited to share the results of its first cohort of the Connections 101 program, a partnership between the college and Great Falls Public Schools Career and College Readiness Center. Of the 28 students who started the program in Fall 2019, 24 completed. Of those 24, 19 enrolled at Great Falls College in the spring 2020 first 8-week block; one will begin in the second 8-week block; one is interested in starting in fall 2020; one was connected with a local employer for an apprenticeship; one will be pursuing volunteer opportunities in local community art programs; and one will work on finishing the HiSET. Data on the success of the model and the students will be collected on a continuous basis.

Great Falls College MSU's Dental Hygiene and Dental Assisting students, as well as numerous community health organizations, hosted the fifth annual [No Smile Left Behind Community Dental Day and Health Fair](#). Approximately 80 community members received free dental cleanings and extractions. This event is a partnership between Great Falls College and the Healthy Lives, Vibrant Futures Initiative.