



DATE: 12.21.2020

TO: Board of Regents

FROM: Ron Slinger  
President, Miles Community College

RE: Campus Report for the January 2021 Board of Regents Meeting

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- Miles Community College President Ron Slinger was one of eleven new individuals recently appointed to the Montana Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. President Slinger's three-year term officially began on October 28, 2020. The Board supports the work of the Montana Chamber of Commerce, including their Envision 2026 strategic plan. New Directors were identified and recruited by the Montana Chamber's Governance Committee with special attention to increase business and industry diversity. "I am honored to join this outstanding group of individuals on the Board of Directors," commented President Slinger. "It will be exciting to represent Miles Community College and Eastern Montana. This appointment will open-up many statewide partnership opportunities for both the college and our community."
- Miles Community College has hired Tina Rutledge to oversee its new Meat Processing program and its students. Rutledge grew up on a purebred cow-calf operational ranch in northcentral North Carolina before attending South Dakota State University and receiving a Bachelor's Degree in Animal Science. The Meat Processing Program is a one-year certificate degree (two semesters as a full-time student), aimed at helping students to gain practical skills and knowledge for this technical industry. Students are able to complete all of their core classes online through MCC and then partner with local meat processing plants in their area to complete four internships of technical training.
- Miles Community College has been gifted with \$25,000 from Northwest Farm Credit Services (FCS) to help fund the newly established meat processing program at the college. As part of their stewardship commitment to improve the lives of their customers, communities, and the industries they serve, Northwest FCS has chosen to invest in several northwest universities and colleges. The \$25,000 gift is an effort to invest in the Miles City community in support of the meat processing program. The monetary gift, along with federally funded grants, has allowed for the continued development of the new program at the college.
- Miles Community College and Dickinson State University (DSU) have signed a "2+2" transfer articulation agreement that will allow students to complete a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education without leaving Miles City. Students will be able to complete the first two years of their degree at MCC, earning an Associate of Arts Degree, before transferring to DSU for two years to complete a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. The latter two years of study will be delivered remotely, allowing students to remain in Miles City to complete their degree. Previously, students seeking an elementary education degree through MCC would have had to transfer to a four-year university outside of Miles City to complete the last two years of the degree. Dickinson State University will pilot the delivery of three courses during the Spring 2021 semester, with the full transfer agreement set to launch in Fall 2021.

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