

# MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

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CAMPUS REPORT | Board of Regents Meeting | September 15-16, 2021



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Dr. [Stephanie Erdmann](#) became the seventh CEO/dean of Great Falls College MSU on July 1. She has been busy meeting staff and faculty members, community leaders and others to learn more about Great Falls College and the needs of northcentral Montana. She is excited to be back in Montana after almost 20 years in Wisconsin, where she was most recently administrator of the Rice Lake campus of Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College. Erdmann toured Montana State-Northern with Chancellor Greg Kegel in her first weeks and is excited to have MSU-Northern leadership at a ceremony in Great Falls to promote the strong bonds with Northern's education program on Great Falls College's campus.

The dental hygiene and dental assisting programs are so excited about their expanded [dental clinic](#), which provides students the opportunity to work in a much more professional, comfortable environment. More importantly, the expansion allows the hygiene program to graduate seven additional students each year to fill the labor shortage in Montana, region and the country. The expanded clinic came about thanks to the bipartisan support of the 2019 Legislature that earmarked \$4.25 million for the expansion. A ribbon-cutting ceremony is scheduled for Sept. 24.

The [personal touch](#) of Great Falls College MSU's full-time professional advisors in the Advising and Career Center is what sets it apart, according to an accreditation report from Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. "The approach is holistic, and advisors connect students to other student success resources ... as needed," the report said. It is high praise and much appreciated for Troy Stoddard, Great Falls College's advising director, to see the hard work of his department get noticed for its quality. However, it doesn't compare with the satisfaction of seeing a student he has advised walk across the stage with a diploma, he said.

Great Falls College MSU's Weaver Library and the Teaching and Learning Center are working on ramping up their presence on campus and rebuilding the sense of community that has waned during the pandemic. Mandy Wright, who oversees both areas, is working with instructional designer Becky Sullivan to make the Teaching and Learning Center a spot where faculty members come, hang out and swap ideas. [Ashlynn Maczko](#), who just started as librarian at the Weaver Library, is working on ways to bring the campus community back into the library while also building bridges with online instructors and students. Maczko also is excited about increasing the use of open educational resources at Great Falls College.

[Mallory Antovel](#), human resources manager at Great Falls College MSU, recently was selected to take part in a yearlong immersive program for early career higher education HR professionals. She is one of just 12 participants selected from across the country to participate in the Wildfire mentorship program that is put on by College and University Professional Association-HR. The Wildfire name comes from the organization's desire that participants' opportunities within the profession and the association spread like wildfire.

The admissions team at Great Falls College MSU received some wonderful news. Enrollment specialist Laramie Smovir was named to the Montana Post-Secondary Educational Opportunities Council's board of directors and admissions representative Connor Frakes earned the organization's Rising Star Award, which is given to one new admission's professional in the state.

In the first four months of its certified nursing assistant classes, Great Falls College MSU's Lifelong Learning Center has a [100 percent pass rate for the certified nursing assistants](#) who are helping fill the shortage of CNAs in the community, said Tammie Hickey, the Lifelong Learning Center director at Great Falls College. Seven businesses in Great Falls are employing students who have completed the training. Lifelong Learning is adding a home health aide training, as well.