

# MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

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CAMPUS REPORT | Board of Regents Meeting | July 11, 2023



GREAT FALLS  
COLLEGE  
MONTANA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

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Great Falls College [graduated](#) 202 students in May. Some of the highlights included that every respiratory therapy graduate already has jobs. This is the first cohort to go through the both years of the program since it joined the OneMSU Network and became remote. This was the first class of dental hygiene students to graduate since the new dental clinic allowed the program to expand. Nine students went through the Eagle Feather Ceremony. As Elliot Paz, student body president, told the graduates in his address: “All this is a testament of what you can do and what you can do for your future. The future will be yours to create and to forge.”

The college was proud to host the [Board of Regents](#) in May and show off all of the hard working that is going on. It was particularly nice to have breakfast with the regents and community members discussing the important role of education across the state and northcentral Montana. Many community members and local business leaders discussed the innovative ways Great Falls College is partnering with industry to shore up workforce voids with innovative offerings such as the commercial driving license program and the healthcare offerings, including certified nursing assistant.

Work already has begun this summer remodeling the beautiful Weaver Library to make it more of a learning commons with wraparound services such as tutoring and disability services readily available. It is part of a major facelift for the college as campus signage is being updated with the college’s new mascot -- the River Otter – as the college continues its rebranding thanks to the Lumina grant.

Student Night at the Electric City Speedway was part of a sell-out as the college handed out swag, including River Otter T-shirts, and met with the public. Two recent graduates – Dan Harvey and Cail Tinker – race cars at the track, and Dan stationed his car with our table atop the grandstand. Both Dan and Cail use the skills they learned in the industrial technology and welding programs, respectively, to maintain their cars.

The Great Falls College teaching excellence award went to Marla McFerrin, surgical technology faculty member; the staff excellence award went to Ben McKinley, maintenance supervisor in the facilities department; and outstanding adjunct award went to Joleen Cordeiro.

The college congratulated local high school graduates for their accomplishments with posts that highlighted the high-achieving students who plan to attend Great Falls College in the fall, including [Spencer Kist](#) (education), [Chloe Feit](#) (cybersecurity) and [Elle Broquist](#) (general education). All three were among the recipients of Great Falls Public Schools’ Excellence in Education award.

Great Falls College honored 169 students on its [Dean’s List](#) for spring semester, including students from every corner of the state.

Great Falls College continued its trainings with [Bright Trails Education](#) on American Indian Engagement and Retention. Jordan Lankford and Miranda Murray are nationally known facilitators who work for Great Falls Public Schools who put on dynamic, interactive sessions around inclusion. The college also was the site of a language preservation Class 7 training on tribal culture and history.