



DATE: 6.15.2023

TO: Board of Regents

FROM: Dr. Ron Slinger
President, Miles Community College

RE: Campus Report for the July 2023 Board of Regents Meeting

- Miles Community College held its 83rd annual commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 6, at the MCC Centra Gymnasium in Miles City and presented 136 degrees to 127 graduates from Fall 2022, Spring 2023, and Summer 2023 (pending). 54 graduates were recognized as honor graduates, earning a cumulative GPA of 3.75 or higher. Students with 4.0 GPAs who were named valedictorians were Josh Banderob (Great Falls, MT), Kryton Gackle (Miles City, MT), Sierra John (Idaho Falls, ID), Autumn Morton (Stevensville, MT), and Chelsea Rogers (Sidney, MT). Montana State Senator and Senate President Pro Tempore Kenneth Bogner, who represents Senate District 19 (which includes much of southeastern Montana) was the commencement speaker.
- Each year at MCC, the Distinguished Graduating Student awards are given based on the individual's time as a student and includes their academic and co-curricular involvement. Nominations are submitted in the spring by faculty and staff. These awards are presented at commencement and given in the three academic divisions: Arts and Sciences, Career and Technical, and Nursing. This year, the award honorees were Kryton Gackle of Miles City (Arts and Sciences), Wesley Leischner of Miles City (Career and Technical), and Chloe Cota of Roundup, Montana (Nursing).
- During the 2023 Commencement Ceremony, two awards were given to staff and faculty members for excellence in the workplace and enhancing student success. This year's Excellence in Teaching Award winner was Tyler Niedge, CDL Instructor. The CDL program, with Tyler's attention to detail and the knowledge of many state regulations and federal mandates, has been restructured to fit the occupational and safety outcomes of a crucial industry, while remaining responsive to regional student and employer needs. Tyler was also recently appointed to the board of the Montana Trucking Association.
- The 2023 Staff Excellence and Innovation Award was given to Carrie Preller, HR Coordinator. Carrie, in a field driven by regulations, has still demonstrated innovation in her approach to help create an environment that enhances the student life and employee working environment at Miles Community College. She has been innovative in the implementation of new ideas, methods, and technologies to better meet the evolving needs of the college and students, faculty and staff. She continues to take on additional work in the HR and Business offices while serving on multiple committees and volunteering time in the community.
- Miles Community College student Kryton Gackle was one of 12 students presented with the Montana Student Volunteer Award by the Montana Campus Compact and the Governor's Office of Community Service.
- Miles Community College President Ron Slinger has been elected as the new Board President of the Miles City Area Economic Development Council (MCAEDC).

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