



DATE: 6.12.2024

TO: Board of Regents

FROM: Dr. Ron Slinger
President, Miles Community College

RE: Campus Report for the July 2024 Board of Regents Meeting

- 136 Miles Community College students were named to the President's List for the Spring 2024 semester. Students who are taking 12 or more credits and maintain a term grade-point average of 3.5 or higher are eligible for this recognition.
- Two Miles Community College coaches were recently recognized by their respective organizations. MCC Head Rodeo Coach Sylvan La Cross was honored as the National Intercollegiate Athletic Association (NIRA) Big Sky Region Coach of the Year. MCC Head Baseball Coach Mike O'Connell was recognized as the Mon-Dak Conference Coach of the Year.
- During the 2024 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 Katrina Luther, Nursing Faculty. Katrina has taught, counseled, and encouraged over 500 nursing students over her 17+ year career at MCC, and our Nursing students flock to her for her knowledge and compassion, as she helps to transform them into well-educated, confident future nurses.
 - The 2024 Staff Excellence and Innovation Award was given to Richard DeShields, Vice President of Student Engagement and Auxiliary Services. Richard was recognized for his role in developing the course COLS 111, Career Development and Interpersonal Skills. This course has become the cornerstone of our Opportunity Realized program, empowering high school students to gain the skills they need to be successful in college or career.
- Miles Community College (MCC) Nursing Faculty Katrina Luther has recently been named as one of the healthcare professionals honored in the Billings Gazette's Heart of Healthcare celebration. Each year, the Billings Gazette puts together a special publication to honor local and area nurses who make a difference in the lives of others. This specialty publication is released during National Nurses Week (May 6-12) and includes a special online Salute to Nurses video, featuring interviews with the honorees. The public is encouraged to nominate nurses and nursing professionals who represent the best in their trade and have characteristics such as compassion, patience, and commitment. Katrina Luther dedicated years as a nurse before beginning her faculty career at MCC in 2007, and she has been a foundational part of the MCC Nursing Program ever since. Hailing from the ranching community of Brusett, Montana with a strong work ethic instilled by her parents, Luther began her career as a nurse after receiving her Associate of Science in Nursing degree from MCC in 1985. She then furthered her education by receiving Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Nursing from the University of Mary in North Dakota. She was also one of the first in her family to receive her Master's degree and knows that her dad would have been extremely proud of her accomplishments. While he never had the opportunity to finish high school, he instilled the importance of lifelong learning in each of his eight children and celebrated their successes.

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