

# MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

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CAMPUS REPORT | Board of Regents Meeting | Nov. 21-22, 2024



GREAT FALLS  
COLLEGE  
MONTANA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

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Great Falls College enrollment increased for the fifth straight semester, climbing from 1,322 students in fall 2023 to 1,502 in fall 2024 for a 13.6 percent increase at census. Full-time equivalents increased from 806 to 873 for an increase of 8.3 percent. The first cohort of 26 Veterinary Technician students from around the state helped those numbers. Great Falls College is still enrolling for the B Block of the fall semester and is also still enrolling concurrent dual enrollment students.

More than 2,100 eighth-graders and sophomores visited Great Falls College as it co-hosted [Worlds of Work](#) with the University of Providence. The hands-on career fair on steroids allowed the students to meet 76 area employers and try everything from treating wounds to welding to getting inside a helicopter to going up in bucket truck.

Great Falls College was selected as the western hub for Goldman Sachs' [10,000 Rural Small Businesses](#) initiative. Applications for the Montana cohort are open now for the class, which will start in the spring. Small businesses that make at least \$75,000 in revenue and have at least two employees, including the business owner, are eligible to apply to the program, which will take them through an extensive, all-paid, 12-week training and pair them with industry experts to help them grow their business.

The innovative bridge program from dental assisting to dental hygiene is off to a good start, with students who were not initially selected for the hygiene program going into the assistant program this year to increase their chances of being selected for the hygiene program next year. They make up half of the six students in the assistant program this year. Great Falls College also has five students enrolled in the inaugural non-credit, short-course dental assisting class. Four of the students already are working in the field at the Fort Peck Tribal Health Department and are looking to increase their skills.

The Native American Enrichment Center and Military Family Center on campus are both getting new, improved homes closer to the heart of campus. The college is converting the former dental clinic into new homes for these students, who were very involved in the process of selecting what each space would include.

Great Falls College's Continuing Education and Training department continues to react to the needs of industry. This fall, the college offered its first non-credit flooring installation program, in which the students will spend 300 hours learning different installation techniques to fill a critical workforce void. It also plans to offer another class in the spring. The non-credit short-course structural welding is popular each time it is offered throughout the year, and the college is running monthly commercial driver license and certified nursing assistant classes. All of these classes came about after industry came to the college seeking solutions to fill workforce voids in the community.

Great Falls College worked with Great Falls Public Schools and other community partners to hold a big celebration on Indigenous Peoples' Day with guest speakers, live entertainment, children's activities and traditional games and all area fourth-graders were invited to come to a celebration a week later to learn about the culture and impact of our nation's first people.