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Date: March 6, 2025  
To: Montana Board of Regents  
From: Chad Knudson  
President, Dawson Community College  
RE: Campus report for March 2025 Board of Regents Meeting

- Dawson Community College and the Office of Public Instruction launched a new special education para pathways project in mid-February. DCC is the statewide higher education partner on the project and will coordinate both a self-driven training through OPI as well as a 13-credit micro-credential through DCC's education department. Since launch over 150 participants from 31 Montana counties have started the process. Students must be currently employed as paraprofessionals serving students with disabilities and have at least 1,000 hours of work experience to qualify for the program. The first cohort will complete their training in spring 2026. Those who complete the two-tier training will qualify for a proposed SpEd Tech credential.

<https://opi.mt.gov/Educators/School-Climate-Student-Wellness/Special-Education/Para-Pathways-Project>

- Eighty students received academic honors for Fall 2024. Of those 30 received President's Honors for a 4.0 grade point average. The remaining students had to receive a 3.5 or higher to be included in the honors.
- The men's basketball team hosted the NJCAA Region XIII Championship game on March 9. Going into the championship, the team had a record of 28-3 – tied for the second most season wins in the 67 year history of the program – and with an average of 102.4 points per game, they were the second highest scoring team in the nation.
- Dawson College Foundation endowed scholarship funds have grown significantly with an increase of approximately 150% in the last two years. Several new endowments, along with a \$20,000 grant from the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation, prompted DCC to create a new \$1,500 'Buccaneer Bounty Scholarship' for all Montana students. Priority scholarship applications were due March 1.
- DCC will host an NWCCU mid-cycle accreditation visit on April 7 & 8.
- President Knudson was named to the steering committee for a \$1.25 million Destination Montana Pilot Tourism Grant awarded to develop plans for a tourism-related ecosystem in and around Glendive.
- The 84<sup>th</sup> Commencement will be held Thursday, May 8 at 6 p.m.