

Date: November 12, 2025
To: Montana Board of Regents
From: Chad Knudson
President, Dawson Community College
RE: Campus report for November 2025 Board of Regents Meeting

- Dawson saw significant enrollment improvement during fall 25. Census day headcount was up 24%, while resident FTE rose 17% over fall 24 and 16% over fall 23. These enrollment numbers are encouraging after Dawson completed a painful reversion in October.
- The rise in enrollment included significant growth in the welding program, which resulted in the addition of a second scheduling cohort for the first time. Dawson is running day and night classes to accommodate the large number of welding students. With 100% job placement, high school recruits continue to show strong interest in the program.
- The Montana Para Pathways Project Level 2 launched with fall semester. The first cohort of 42 students are in the process of completing two college courses this semester. The instructors report a high caliber of student success and dedication to the program. As the first cohort completes two additional classes in spring 26, a second Level 2 cohort will also begin in the spring semester. Over 750 para-educators from across the state have participated at some level with more than 10,000 hours of level 1 training completed.
- Dawson hosted its second annual Cultivating Careers event in September. The event, held in conjunction with DLI and the Montana Chamber of Commerce exposed about 400 area middle and high school students to a wide variety of hands-on work experiences.
- Dawson hosted OCHE staff as part of a statewide Perkins tour in September and welcomed the 406 Jobs meeting in October. It is always great to have visitors from around the state join us on campus!
- The implementation of our new ERP system (Jenzabar One) to replace Banner has been expensive and time-consuming for our staff, however Dawson is on track for a late summer launch of the new system. We are excited about the improved functionality and customization J1 will allow.
- The Dawson College Foundation held its annual Buccaneer Bash on Oct. 4. Approximately 340 community members joined the event and helped raise about \$80,000 to support student scholarships at DCC.
- Dawson welcomed the donation of an original bronze sculpture depicting our mascot – the Buccaneer. The bronze was the work of sculptor Pam Harr and was funded entirely by donations. Work to the entrance of Main Hall to accommodate prominent placement of the bronze was also donated. The total donations totaled about \$100,000 and are the latest reminder of the community's support and dedication to the college.

