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Date: January 7, 2026
To: Montana Board of Regents
From: Chad Knudson
President, Dawson Community College
RE: Campus report for January 2026 Board of Regents Meeting

- Enrollment trends continue on a positive trajectory. EOT resident FTE was up 9% year over year. Preliminary spring enrollment at time of writing showed a headcount increase of 35% over the same time last year, which corresponds to a 14% increase in FTE. Classes started Tuesday, Jan. 13.
- Eighty-three students received academic honors for fall 2025. Of those 10 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.
- A total of six students earned their associates degrees during the fall semester
- DCC served 222 dual enrollment students in fall-only classes. Dawson instructors are currently working to obtain Class 8 teaching licenses from OPI to better serve early start students who need both high school and college credits.
- Dawson recently began a new initiative to drive expanded offerings of high-quality distance learning modalities. Dawson has lagged in this area following the loss of the CCC Online consortium (which Dawson participated in for 24 years). A committee composed of faculty and administration are working cooperatively to convert and develop more courses for synchronous and asynchronous remote delivery as well as hyflex options. Among the goals are expanded opportunities for place-bound and time-restricted students, additional enrollment in undersubscribed classes to expand course options and expanded service to resource constrained high schools as well as home school students.
- Dawson has applied for a volunteer through VISTA to reimagine and strengthen the Dawson Promise program. This program currently serves 9 students who had aged out of foster care or were experiencing homelessness. Three are on track to graduate in May. Among other things, the VISTA will look at improvements to marketing and recruiting as well as improved screening procedures. These initiatives are intended to maximize the likelihood for success among participants. The position is currently open through MCNCE: <https://mtengage.org/amerikorps/application/available-positions/>