

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

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CAMPUS REPORT | Board of Regents Meeting | March 12, 2026



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Enrollment remains strong at Great Falls College. At the beginning of the semester, the college had 1,232 students, up approximately 10% from the same time last year. Full-time equivalent enrollment was also up nearly 9%, from 724.1 to 789.6. These preliminary figures did not include B-block courses or dual enrollment, which will be reflected in the final spring numbers. This continued growth reflects the ongoing dedication and hard work happening across campus every day.

The college recently welcomed Gov. Greg Gianforte, first lady Susan Gianforte and state Superintendent Susie Hedalen for a campus visit focused on workforce training. The governor toured career-focused programs including welding, construction trades, flooring installation, the commercial driver license program and Montana's only dental hygienist program. The governor highlighted the importance of aligning workforce training with industry needs to provide Montanans with clear pathways to good-paying careers, while Dr. Stephanie Erdmann, CEO and Dean of Great Falls College, noted the college's role in connecting students to hands-on, employment-ready skills.

March marks Science Month at Great Falls College, highlighted by hosting the regional science fairs for elementary, middle school and high school students. These events brought hundreds of young learners to campus and reinforced the college's commitment to science education and community engagement. The college is also preparing for its annual *Night Out for Science* fundraiser, a signature event supporting scholarships in science, technology, engineering, art and math (STEAM). Since its inception, *Night Out for Science* has raised more than \$100,000, with most funds generated in the past few years, providing critical resources to help students focus on their education and future careers. The event offers attendees an evening of STEAM-focused activities, presentations, dinner and entertainment, all while highlighting the high-quality programs available at Great Falls College.

The college continues to strengthen partnerships that connect students with hands-on learning opportunities. Recently, a group of Great Falls Public Schools high school students participated in a four-day workshop learning the traditional art of carving spruce canoe paddles in the college's carpentry bay. Led by Brandon Kaayák'w Gomez, a wood carving apprentice from Juneau, Alaska, the workshop was made possible through a collaboration with the GFPS Indigenous Education Department and the Goldbelt Heritage Foundation. Students had the opportunity to craft their own paddles while engaging deeply with cultural knowledge transfer.

Great Falls College also continues to expand its regional impact through the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses program as the Mountain West hub. This month, the program is launching its first-ever Idaho cohort, and recruitment is underway for the second Montana cohort, which will begin in the fall. Early data and participant feedback highlight improvements in business stability, management capacity and long-term viability, further positioning the college as a regional leader in supporting small businesses and economic resilience.

The Substance Abuse and Addictions Counseling program and its students brought comedian Mark Lundholm to campus for a dynamic professional workshop focused on supporting those who care for others. Lundholm also performed to a large audience at the Heritage Inn as part of a fundraiser benefiting Cub Haven, a 28-day inpatient addictions treatment facility for youth that Teresa Mouser, a faculty member in the program, is establishing—the first of its kind in Montana. The college proudly sponsored both events and supports this vital work in our community.