



## CAMPUS REPORT | Board of Regents Meeting | September 17-18, 2014 | Billings



**GREAT FALLS  
COLLEGE**  
MONTANA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY | GREAT FALLS COLLEGE

Great Falls College MSU held its **Commencement Ceremony** on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The graduates were addressed by Lieutenant Governor Angela McLean. 384 graduates earned 448 degrees and certificates awarded. Of special note were the 12 dual credit welding students who became college graduates a full month before earning their high school diplomas! The average GPA of the class was 3.34 with 29 students graduating with a 4.0, 73 earning high honors, and 90 graduating with honors.

**Dr. Deborah Newton** was honored as 2014 recipient of the Dean's Award for Teaching Excellence. Dr. Newton has worked for the College for 20 years, starting her career in August of 1994. She was recognized for her dedication to creating an exceptional, rigorous, and supportive online learning environment that ensures students who complete go into the workplace ready to add value from day one. She is the program director for the Medical Billing Specialist and Medical Billing and Coding Specialist programs.

The Great Falls College MSU math faculty and department were recognized as the recipients of the 2014 Dean's Award for Innovation. **Jill Keil, Mark Plante, Valerie Smith, Thomas Oakberg, Christopher Peck, and Claire Flood** shared the award for their work to continue to improve, find solutions and try new things in an effort to increase student success, reduce costs, and expand teaching and learning. The list of their achievements in which students and faculty will both benefit is long. They have created and modified classes, collaborated with the local school district, and increased success rates in technical math from less than 50% to over 90%!

Great Falls College MSU has partnered with the Montana State University's College of Engineering to offer a **1+3 Civil Engineering** transfer option. Through this option, students complete the designated first-year civil engineering courses at GFC MSU and transfer to MSU in Bozeman to complete a bachelor's degree. GFC MSU scholarships were made possible through the generous support of local individuals and businesses. Donors include the **National Association of Women in Construction; Brad Talcott Family; Stelling Engineers, Inc;** and **Stockman Bank**. Each provided an endowment of \$25,000. These endowments will provide (4) \$1000 Dufresne Foundation 1+3 Civil Engineering Transfer Scholarships annually.

The College welcomed Mrs. Nancy Wilson, wife of Lieutenant General Stephen Wilson, Air Force Global Strike Command Commander. The highlight of the visit was to meet with the military and civilian partners from the **Air Force Community Partnership Education and Training Co-op Group Initiative**. The group briefly discussed the partnership opportunities and then toured the Simulated Hospital, which Malmstrom Air Force Base will be utilizing.

On July 23, **Cody Strunk**, Industrial Technology faculty, threw the first pitch at the Great Falls College MSU Night at the Ballpark for the Great Falls Voyagers game. **Dr. Darryl Stevens** wowed the crowd with the singing of the National Anthem. Great Falls College MSU baseballs were given away as souvenirs.

This fall, Great Falls College will inaugurate its first **College and Community Choir**. The College Choir is a mixed voice choral ensemble designed for students who wish to expand their musical experience. The choral ensemble will perform a range of choral music encompassing a variety of musical periods and styles. The course may be used as a concentration course for students earning an A.A. and as a non-concentration course elective for students earning an A.S.

The **Year of Closing the Loop** at Great Falls College MSU was celebrated at the Fall 2014 Welcome Back Kickoff event for faculty and staff. The College will complete its NWCCU Year Seven Accreditation Report and welcome site visitors in April 2015. All departments on campus will report its use of data in continuous improvement strategies (closing the loop) and resource allocation. Other topics presented at the Kickoff were the recent Economic Impact Study completed by EMSI, performance based funding process, and the College's planning model and process.

Great Falls College hosted a **Main Street Montana** Public Forum on August 19. Governor Steve Bullock offered an overview of the project's status and implementation. Several community members were invited and attended the event which packed Heritage Hall. We look forward to supporting the project as it continues to move Montana forward.