

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY



**GREAT FALLS
COLLEGE**
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UNIVERSITY

PROPOSAL FOR ROOF REPLACEMENT

Project: Great Falls College MSU Roof Replacement

Great Falls College MSU is a vital part of Cascade and nearby counties, providing education and career training to more than 2,400 students. By hosting the most health care degree and certificate programs in the Montana University System, Great Falls College MSU advances the region's largest economic sector. Of enrolled students, 97 percent are from Montana and the vast majority—92 percent—stay and work in Montana after graduation.



Great Falls College MSU is primarily housed in a single building with a roof that is more than 20 years old and needs to be replaced. Despite repairs to the roof, leaks persist. It is essential to replace the roof before structural damage to the building occurs.

Rationale

- **Persistent roof leaks:** The 100,000-square-foot roof is beginning to fail and several areas have experienced ongoing leaks despite repairs. One leak at a hallway junction has persisted for more than four years.
- **Potential mold problems:** The Montana Safety and Health Bureau conducted a study in July 2011 and concluded mold resulting from the leaks should be addressed.
- **Structural concerns:** Due to a lack of funds, maintenance on the roof has been limited. It is now necessary to replace the roof before it compromises the structural integrity of the building.
- **Human safety issues:** Replacing the roof will protect the health and safety of the students, faculty and staff at Great Falls College MSU.
- **Building code violations:** The drainage system of the existing roof is not in compliance with current building codes.



Benefits

- **Supplying educated employees:** Great Falls College MSU provides educated citizens in the areas of business, trades and technology and health sciences. In addition, it offers many pre-professional programs in health care fields as well as preparation for transfer to four-year colleges.
- **Educating local students:** Approximately 73 percent of the students at Great Falls College MSU are from Cascade County and rely on local access to postsecondary education to improve their job prospects or prepare for transfer to a four-year program.
- **Protecting previous educational investments:** To provide students the best education and training possible, many programs utilize cutting-edge technologies, such as the Simulation Hospital, Dental Clinic, and computer laboratories with state-of-the-art equipment and software programs. Replacing the roof will protect these critical investments.
- **Construction jobs from roof replacement:** The roof replacement will support construction jobs.

Career Outlook

Great Falls College MSU offers many programs that prepare students for high demand jobs. The “Montana Employment Projections 2011–2021” report from the Montana Department of Labor & Industry indicates a close alignment between the health sciences and pre-professional programs offered at Great Falls College MSU and the Montana employment projections for health care occupations. Graduates are well prepared to meet these needs; in fact, health science students have consistently achieved a 100 percent pass rate on national exams for respiratory care, dental hygiene, surgical technology and practical nursing.

Great Falls College MSU also trains graduates in such high-growth occupations as accounting, computer occupations, welding and assembly. Despite the recession, in-field job placement for graduates has remained strong with nearly *80 percent of graduates reporting employment the fall after they graduate.*

Investment

The Great Falls College MSU roof replacement is endorsed by the Board of Regents. This \$1.5 million project would include stripping off the existing roof, disposal of waste and installation of the new roof.

For more information:

Waded Cruzado | President, Montana State University · wcruzado@montana.edu · 406-994-2341

Susan J. Wolff | Chief Executive Officer/Dean, Great Falls College MSU · susan.wolff@msugf.edu · 406-771-4310

Pamela Parsons | Executive Director, Community Relations, Great Falls College MSU · pparsons@msugf.edu
406-771-4314 or 406-788-6080

Tracy Ellig | Executive Director-External Relations, Montana State University · tellig@montana.edu · 406-994-5607