



DATE: December 20, 2018
TO: Board of Regents
FROM: Scott R. Mickelsen, President
RE: **Campus Report – January 2019 Board of Regents Meeting**

MISSION

Dawson Community College fosters a culture of excellence in education providing all students quality learning and opportunities for growth and partnership in local and global communities.

CORE THEMES

- *Excellence through Academics*: Provide curriculum and instruction through multiple learning pathways expanding opportunities in education adaptive to the needs of a changing student body.
- *Excellence through Student Engagement*: Provide a student-centered focus through student and academic support services, quality faculty and staff, residence life, clubs and organizations.
- *Excellence through Community*: Provide the greater community lifelong learning opportunities through open access to the College.
- *Excellence through Outreach*: Provide opportunities for workforce development, apprenticeships and internships, continuing education, personal enrichment and youth programming.
- *Excellence through Recruiting*: Provide opportunities to invite all learners to be a part of DCC, maintain sustained growth with not only more applicants, but also better-prepared students equipped with tools for success.
- *Excellence through Financial Practices*: Provide budget oversight and expanded opportunities in education for both transfer and career and technical education and workforce development, as well as personal enrichment for faculty, staff, students, and community.
- *Excellence through Property and Learning Facilities*: Provide for the management of all grounds and facilities to help provide the best learning environment possible.

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- Low student to faculty ratio
- Quality career and technical programs
- Highly qualified, dedicated faculty and staff
- Campus-wide WIFI and independent computer labs
- Active student government and student life programming
- Quality learning environment in a unique geographical region of the United States
- Seamless transferability for all core classes
- Career readiness educational programming
- Student-focused modern library facilities
- Competitive athletic programs
- Quality apartment-style housing

REPORT:

DCC held an information session on December 10, for members of the public to learn about Dawson Promise. This is an exciting new opportunity to serve students who are homeless or are aging out of foster care. The College is uniquely poised to help this population navigate the transition out of high



school through assistance with financial aid packages and employment opportunities while earning an associate's degree. We were very pleased with the level of interest as well the thoughtful questions from the community. Also in attendance that evening was a potential student interested in learning more about the program and the enrollment process.

I am pleased to announce a new scholarship available for students enrolling for Spring 2019. The Fresh Start Scholarship is open to all full-time, degree-seeking students who are Montana residents who may have struggled in high school or at a previous college and are looking for a "fresh start." Students who graduated from high school in the past four years with at least a 2.0 GPA and have either never attended college or attended a college or university other than DCC are eligible for a Fresh Start Scholarship of up to \$1,000. To keep the scholarship, students must maintain at least a 2.0 GPA and be enrolled and active in at least one student club or organization. The Fresh Start Scholarship Application is available at www.dawson.edu/future/buccaneer-excellence-program.

During the past two years, enrollment at DCC has increased 44 percent. As enrollment grows, so do education opportunities. New programs such as Rural Organization Employee Management and Technical Skills align with existing classes to offer expanded options for students. To meet growing demand, the Welding program expanded this past year, and in 2019, the Criminal Justice Law Enforcement program will celebrate its 50th year. These programs, and others, help to meet industry demand for a skilled workforce locally and throughout Montana.

I look forward to the upcoming legislative session. During the last session, we were tasked with growing enrollment and lowering the cost of education. Due to the hard work of every employee at the College, we're proud to have achieved great results in a short amount of time. I'm eager to share our story with legislators and other officials in Helena.