

May 22-23, 2019

**ITEM 183-2902-R0519**

**Request for authorization to construct a new Dental Clinic and Dental Assisting/Dental Hygiene Lab;  
Great Falls College Montana State University**

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**THAT**

Consistent with the provisions of MCA-18-2-102(2)(c) and as authorized in House Bill 652 of the 2019 66<sup>th</sup> Legislative session, the Board of Regents of Higher Education authorizes Great Falls College Montana State University to construct a new Dental Clinic and Dental Assisting/Dental Hygiene Lab. This authorization provides authority to a total of \$4.25 million.

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**EXPLANATION**

1. The Dental Hygiene program at Great Falls College Montana State University is the only academic program in the State of Montana.
  2. The program is currently housed in the NE corner of the main campus building. The area also houses classrooms for the dental programs and other health science programs as well as faculty offices.
  3. Due to the classrooms being used by other programs, students and faculty going to those classrooms walk through the waiting area of the dental clinic creating difficulty in protecting the privacy or HIPPA rights of clinic patients.
  4. Every year, there are more applicants that can be accepted due to limited space. Each academic year, 18 students are accepted to the Dental Hygiene program. The program is two years in length; thus equating to 36 students using the current space housing 16 operatories. The current square footage for the clinic/lab is 3,109 square feet with an additional ~900 square feet in the e-ray lab.
  5. The existing 4,000 square foot clinic space no longer meets the demands of modern teaching practices nor has adequate space to accommodate today's dental practice technologies and furnishings found in today's dental practices.
  6. Graduates of the program have 100% job placement rate and the majority of the graduates remain in Montana. The median starting wage for Dental Hygiene graduates is \$51,415.
  7. The scope of the project is to design and build a new 10,000 square foot clinic/lab. Eight (8) additional operatories will be added to the clinic/lab allowing for the acceptance of eight more full-time students each year bringing the potential number of students being served in the space in a given year to 52. The conceptual design shows the one-story addition being located north of the current spaces and connected with a hallway.
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**ATTACHMENTS**

- Attachment #1 – BOR Policy: Physical Plant B Section 1003.7
- Attachment #2 – Design Concept