



DATE: October 28, 2019
TO: Board of Regents
FROM: Scott R. Mickelsen, President
RE: **Campus Report – November 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:

I'm pleased to report that total full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment at Dawson has increased by 13% this year and full-time headcount has increased 14.4%. Total headcount is 445, up from 388 at the same time last year. Dawson also reported 298 FTEs and 214 full-time students, compared to 263 FTEs and 187 full-time students in Fall 2018. This year's student body is 58% female and 42% male and includes students from seven countries, 14 states, and 35 counties in Montana.

Dawson Community College's partnership with The American Campus in Mauritius was highlighted in the October 22, 2019 issue of CCID (Community Colleges for International Development) XCHANGE Newsletter (<https://www.cidinc.org/>). Although still new, this partnership continues to experience growing success and enrollment.

At the ACCT Leadership Congress in October, I, along with other members of AACC's Commission on Small and Rural Colleges, participated in a panel presentation aimed at helping community college trustees hire and onboard successful CEOs. The presentation, *"Find the Right Fit: Hiring and Onboarding Presidents in Small and Rural Colleges,"* discussed the unique skillset, demeanor, and perspective required of CEOs to effectively lead in a rural environment.

The Dawson Promise continues to gain state and national attention. Vice President of Advancement and Human Resources, Leslie Weldon, recently presented the Dawson Promise program to an audience at the CASE Community College Advancement Conference, and is collaborating with the Montana Continuum of Care and the National Center on Homeless Education.

DCC's Guest Lecture series continued in October with a presentation by Dr. Laura Beth VanderVeur. "The Impact of Generations on Societal Institutions," explored America's generations from the 1900's to the 2010's, and the unique characteristics and life events that have forcefully shaped mindsets, habits, and views and has impacted institutions in society, from the government to community groups to faith-based groups to social media.

Financial aid director, Justin Beach, led Financial Aid 101 presentations at a number of area high schools to help parents and students navigate the FAFSA process and answer their questions about financial aid.