



DATE: 8.19.2020

TO: Board of Regents

FROM: Ron Slinger
President, Miles Community College

RE: Campus Report for the September 2020 Board of Regents Meeting

- Miles Community College was recently a recipient of a Montana Meat Processing Infrastructure Grant, as part of the \$7.5 million of coronavirus relief funds awarded by Montana Governor Steve Bullock and the Montana Department of Agriculture. MCC received \$117,397 to assist with the training and education of future students in the planned meat processing program. Funding for the MMPIG was derived from the state's allocation of federal relief dollars made available through the CARES Act, with a maximum award of \$150,000. The Montana Department of Agriculture and Department of Livestock worked in conjunction to ensure projects adhered to meat processing rules and regulations and over 60 entities received funding. For the past several years, MCC has been working to develop plans for a professional certificate in meat cutting. Recently, the college has been gauging student interest and soliciting funding for the program, which allowed them to apply for the MMPIG grant.
- Miles Community College was recently the recipient of two anonymous gifts, totaling \$10,000, for use of scholarships to honor James "Jim" Lucas, who passed away earlier this year. Lucas played a pivotal role throughout the college's 80-year history. He served on the MCC Board of Trustees for 59 of those 80 years, including as the President of the Endowment Board. The MCC Foundation board will be using a Matching Challenge Fundraiser in order to support this campaign. Funds must match the \$10,000 gift, generating a total of \$20,000 to support scholarships for local high school students.
- The Miles Community College Information Technology department is working with the Associate Dean of Instruction and Distance Learning, Sarah Kloewer, to incorporate new technologies into the classroom in preparation for remote learning options. They have been installing and setting up the newest technology camera, the Meeting Owl 360, which will be used to deliver synchronous course content over Zoom, as well as preparing for faculty use of amplification microphones, which will be used to improve sound quality over Zoom and in person while wearing face coverings. Additional faculty trainings are being conducted throughout the month of August, with topics including Online and Hybrid Course Design, HyFlex Course Design and Delivery,
- MCC has received CARES Act funding for a full-time temporary Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Advisor to help with the EIDL and PPP loan information. Sarin Hoppe, a recent MCC business graduate, was hired for this position.
- All five of MCC's NJCAA teams were honored by the national office for their academic performance. The MCC Pioneer women's basketball team was also honored by the Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) when the organization announced their annual Academic Top-25 Honor Roll. MCC earned first place for this award, with their team GPA of 3.771.

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