

# MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

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CAMPUS REPORT | Board of Regents Meeting | November 17-18, 2022



GREAT FALLS  
COLLEGE  
MONTANA STATE  
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Great Falls College is excited to be [selecting a mascot](#) to represent the college as a way to build enthusiasm, identity and community on campus and throughout northcentral Montana. This [effort](#) comes as part of the Lumina Foundation Million Dollar Community College Challenge as the college seeks to enhance its branding and marketing efforts. Hundreds of people participated in the initial round of [suggesting mascots](#) that included everything from the Electric Elks to the Fighting Squirrels (we go nuts for education) to the River Otters. The school's mascot committee is narrowing that list down to a top 15 that it will eventually minnow to a top three that will go out to a public vote to be revealed early in 2023.

The computer technology program connected with the community with weekly [cybersecurity tips](#) in October as part of Cybersecurity Month. Program director Cheryl Simpson also had six computer technology professionals participate in a panel discussion for prospective students to learn what those fields look like in northcentral Montana.

Great Falls College enrollments held steady with six more FTE than a year ago – 715 as compared to 709. Head count is 1,192 this year compared to 1,185 a year ago at census. As students enroll in second 8-week courses, the college expects that end-of-term enrollment will be higher than census report. Great Falls College has two 8-week blocks of classes each semester, allowing our students who have other life responsibilities to concentrate on fewer classes at a time while continuing to earn credits at the same rate or faster.

The college's veterans center has been renamed to the Military Family Center as coordinator Kevin Lyons observed some military dependents and spouses who said they were initially nervous to use the center when it was called the Veterans Center. He surveyed numerous veterans in the center to gauge support for the name change. They were unanimously in favor of the change and thought it would be effective at making dependents and spouses more comfortable making use of the services offered. One veteran noted her son was reluctant to use it and said the name change should make him more comfortable using the benefit both of his parents earned for him.

Great Falls College added a Substance Abuse and Addictions Counseling degree this fall. The program will fill a job-market void in northcentral Montana and addresses a need that students consistently ask about when speaking to advisors. Check out student [Ashley Haley](#)'s story as she seeks to create an option for those seeking to gain sobriety through a combination of both western medicine and tribal culture.

The college also created an alumni newsletter to reach its graduates. The list started with about 3,000 recipients. The mascot search was the perfect time to re-engage with the alumni base to both gain their feedback and hear their ideas while building community with them. The college will build on that momentum with quarterly newsletters to celebrate their success and keep them informed with the exciting things happening around campus. Here are a few stories about our recent graduates, including [Brian Tucker](#), [Stormi Roulon](#) and [Jaynee Leigland](#).