

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

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CAMPUS REPORT | Board of Regents Meeting | Sept. 21-22, 2022



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COLLEGE
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Great Falls College's Lifelong Learning Center revved up efforts to offer a [CDL program](#) when industry leaders and the business community approached the college with the need. A small, first cohort piloted the program in July, and response for future monthly classes has been strong. The CDL program got a big lift when it was awarded a \$388,000 in American Rescue Plan funds from Cascade County Commissioners to buy truck-driving simulators and launch the program. A local trucking company, K&K, loaned the college a truck at no cost.

Great Falls College was awarded a \$100,000 Lumina Grant as part of the Million Dollar Community College Challenge to help with marketing and branding. The college beat out hundreds of community college to be named one of the 10 finalists. As part of the process, Great Falls College created a two-minute video highlighting the college's promise to adult learners and how it fulfills that promise. The videos for all 10 finalists can be found [here](#). With the money, Great Falls College plans to involve the campus and community in a series of events aimed to bolster awareness for the college, including development of a mascot to differentiate it from our across-the-street neighbors at the University of Providence, the former University of Great Falls. With both schools undergoing several name changes in recent years, there is identity confusion in the community around both institutions.

Great Falls College also was the only Montana school to receive Higher Education Emergency Relief Supplemental funds. It will receive \$279,371 to be split evenly between the college and students. The college will use the \$139,371 of institutional funds to [build a new exterior entrance and bathroom in the beautiful Weaver Library](#) to expand library hours. Great Falls College spent more than \$5.4 million in Higher Education Emergency Relief aid since the start of the pandemic, with more than \$3.8 million going directly to students. The library project is another example of the way the college is using the relief funds it has received responsibly to future-proof the institution.

In April, Great Falls College underwent an NWCCU peer-evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness. The peer-evaluation report was reviewed by the Board of Commissioners at its June 22-24 meeting alongside the [self-evaluation report](#) provided by the college. Dr. Erdmann presented the plans to meet the committee recommendations to continue to develop ongoing and systematic evaluation and inclusive processes for effectiveness, assigning resources, and improving student learning and achievement, including publication and use of disaggregate indicators of student retention and persistence.

The Great Falls College Executive Council had a two-day retreat in Fort Benton to set the course for the course for the final parts of the college's [strategic plan](#) as it outlined next steps for units to set and align goals around the strategic plan. Council members also reviewed committee overview sheets and created a report-out structure for committees.

The college is encouraged at early registration for the three academic programs it is bringing on board this fall: two-year associate degrees in [office management and supervision](#) and [substance abuse and addictions counseling](#) as well as a one-year certificate program in office support. The programs are a great illustration of how the college continues to react to workforce voids and find academic programming that fulfills both industry need and the needs of its students.