



DATE: 6.11.2025

TO: Board of Regents

FROM: Dr. Ron Slinger  
President, Miles Community College

RE: Campus Report for the July 2025 Board of Regents Meeting

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- 139 Miles Community College students were named to the President's Honor List for the Spring 2025 semester. These students earned a 3.5 or better GPA while enrolled in 12 or more credits.
- During the 2025 Commencement Ceremony, held on May 3, 2025, two awards were given to staff and faculty members for excellence in the workplace and enhancing student success:
  - This year's Excellence in Teaching Award winner was Dr. Daigo Yamamura, Science Faculty at Miles Community College. Dr. Yamamura's passion for paleontology led him to develop Geology 111: Dinosaurs at MCC, a course that has become immensely popular among both future geology majors and general studies students. His innovative teaching has not only expanded MCC's science offerings but also connects students to the rich natural history of eastern Montana.
  - The 2025 Staff Excellence and Innovation Award was given to Holly Snell, Director of Student Success and Retention. Under her leadership, MCC's adult education program expanded its reach across a broad service area, providing remote support to students across southeastern Montana as well as the hi-line, in addition to the in-person instruction providing in the Learning Center.
- Each year at MCC, the Distinguished Graduating Student awards are given based on the individual's time as a student and includes their academic and co-curricular involvement. Nominations are submitted in the spring by faculty and staff. These awards are presented at commencement and given in the three academic divisions: Arts & Sciences, Career & Technical, and Nursing. This year, the award honorees were:
  - Arts & Sciences: Lainey Smith, a graduate from Miles City, MT, earned an Associate of Science degree with an emphasis in Pre-Professional Allied Health.
  - Career & Technical: Bree Swanson, a Graphic Design graduate from Chinook, MT.
  - Nursing: Johnna DeLoach, a Nursing graduate from Terry, MT.
- Bree Swanson, a recent graduate of Miles Community College, has been named a 2025 New Century Workforce Scholar through a national program sponsored by The Coca-Cola Foundation and Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society. Swanson, originally from Chinook, Montana, is one of only 51 students nationwide selected for this recognition (one from each state). Selection is based on academic achievement, leadership, campus and community involvement, and a demonstrated commitment to entering the workforce after graduation. She was recognized during Phi Theta Kappa's annual convention, in Kansas City, Missouri, April 3-5.
- Hattie Bumgarner, a recent graduate of Miles Community College originally from Belt, Montana, has been named a 2025 Coca-Cola Academic Team Silver Scholar by Phi Theta Kappa. The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation sponsors the Coca-Cola Academic Team program, recognizing 50 Gold, 50 Silver, and 50 Bronze Scholars with nearly \$200,000 in scholarships annually. Hattie was recognized during Phi Theta Kappa's annual convention, in Kansas City, Missouri, April 3-5.

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