



DATE: 6.11.2026

TO: Board of Regents

FROM: Dr. Ron Slinger  
President, Miles Community College

RE: Campus Report for the July 2026 Board of Regents Meeting

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- Miles Community College sophomore [Tori McClelland](#), originally from Red Deer, Alberta, Canada, has been recognized on a national level, earning two prestigious Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) honors: the 2026 New Century Transfer Pathway Scholar award and selection to the 2026 All-USA Academic Team. McClelland, a resident assistant, member of the Pioneer Softball team, and president of the MCC PTK chapter, is the first student in Miles Community College history to receive both awards in the same year.
- 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: Tori McClelland, an Associate of Science graduate from Red Deer, Alberta, Canada
  - Career & Technical: Taylor Mury, an Equine Studies graduate from Circle, Montana.
  - Nursing: Brodie Hager, an Associate of Science in Nursing graduate from Miles City, Montana
- During the 2026 Commencement Ceremony, held on May 2, 2026, 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. Anne Anderson, Education Faculty at Miles Community College. Dr. Anderson was recognized for implementing strategies that go beyond the syllabus, such as individualized coaching techniques and placing education students with mature educators in our community. Her connections and partnerships in the community and beyond have created a wide variety of mentor teachers for her students to get real-world experience in the classroom.
  - The 2026 Staff Excellence and Innovation Award was given to Dirk Schmidt, Information Technology Manager. Dirk was recognized for his work to strengthen the college's technology infrastructure, enhancing the learning environment for students, and improving operational efficiency across departments. Dirk has led significant advancements in cybersecurity, classroom technology, and system reliability, all of which have contributed to a stronger and more secure learning environment for students and faculty.
- Miles Community College Learning Center instructor [Shelley Freese](#) was recently named the Montana recipient of the Mountain Plains Adult Education Association (MPAEA) Award of Excellence, recognizing her more than three decades of dedication to adult education.
- MCC Associate Dean of Academic Affairs [Garth Sleight](#) will conclude an incredible 40-year career at Miles Community College on June 30, 2026.
- The Town Pump Charitable Foundation has awarded \$2,400 to the Miles Community College Foundation. These grant funds will support the Pioneer Pantry, MCC's student food pantry.

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