

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

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CAMPUS REPORT | Board of Regents Meeting | May 20, 2026



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The college celebrated the achievements of graduates at the 2026 commencement ceremony in an event that honored the perseverance and accomplishments of students across all programs, including dual enrolled high school students earning college credentials ahead of their diplomas. The day started with the Eagle Feather Ceremony for Indigenous students. Alum [Jessica Bray](#) was scheduled to deliver the commencement address, connecting her family's story to the importance of resilience and community support while reflecting on Kaelyn's death and the movement it sparked to protect children. The Bray family also awarded the first Kaelyn Serene Bray Memorial Scholarship, a meaningful milestone made possible through the ongoing partnership and advocacy of Dr. Cherie McKeever, founder of Partnering for Prevention, and the Dandelion Foundation, which Jessica founded to protect children after Kaelyn's death. Together, the organizations provided an endowment of nearly \$30,000 to support Great Falls College students preparing for careers that help children and strengthen families.

Enrollment trends continue to be strong as the college is on track to record 960 full-time equivalent students for this academic school year, marking an increase of more than 21 percent since fall 2021. With a year remaining in the college's strategic plan, Forging Futures, attaining the goal of 1,000 full-time students is in reach.

[Night Out for Science](#) once again brought the community together in late March for an evening of hands-on exploration and spirited fundraising. The event featured interactive demonstrations led by students and faculty, along with a full slate of auctions and activities that highlighted the creativity and energy of STEM education at the college. Early estimates indicate the event is on track to vastly exceed last year's totals. Not all the invoices are in for the event to determine final proceeds, but revenue from last year's record-breaking total was up about 44 percent this year at about \$52,000. The college has given out a little more than \$80,000 to 87 students since the start of Night Out for Science.

March's unofficial science month began with the [Regional Science and Engineering Fairs](#), which welcomed elementary, middle school and high school students from across northcentral Montana. Participants showcased their research and competed for opportunities to advance to the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair and the Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge. The fairs continue to be one of the college's most impactful ways of encouraging young people to see themselves as scientists, innovators and problem solvers. The college also hosted Great Falls Public Schools students for seventh-grade tours and students from throughout the area for the "How to College" event.

The Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses program remains a key part of the college's statewide and regional outreach. Recruitment is underway for the [next Montana cohort](#), which will begin this fall, while the Idaho cohort is currently in session. Great Falls College continues to serve as the Mountain West hub, supporting entrepreneurs as they develop five-year growth plans for their businesses.

Students from Great Falls College and Helena College came together in Great Falls this spring for a joint [storytelling event](#) that highlighted personal journeys, challenges and moments of transformation. The evening offered a meaningful opportunity for students to connect across campuses and share experiences that reflect the power of education to shape lives and communities. Three students earned scholarships for their efforts.