



DATE: 4.22.2026

TO: Board of Regents

FROM: Dr. Ron Slinger
President, Miles Community College

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

- Miles Community College partnered with the Montana High Tech Business Alliance and the Montana Jobs Network to host [Skills for the Future: Eastern Montana Career Summit](#) on Tuesday, April 14th. The summit brought together middle school, high school, and college students from across Eastern Montana to explore high-paying, in-demand careers across seven key pathways: Advanced Manufacturing and Applied Innovation, Agriculture Technology, BioScience and HealthTech, Business and Entrepreneurship, Digital Technology, People and Creativity, and Skilled Trades and Outdoor Technology. Approximately 200 middle and high school students from across eastern Montana attended and interacted with over 20 employers.
- Miles Community College hosted the Montana Association of County School Superintendents for lunch during their annual conference, held in Miles City April 14-16. Conference participants were able to speak with MCC Dual Enrollment Program leadership, and participated in a tour of MCC facilities, including its Nursing Arts Lab and other CTE program instructional spaces.
- Dr. Ron Slinger, President of Miles Community College, has been appointed to a three-year term on the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Presidents Academy Executive Committee (PAEC). The PAEC is a group of AACC leaders who play a vital role in shaping a coherent, future-ready leadership pipeline for community colleges. The committee's guidance directly influences how emerging leaders, future presidents, and sitting presidents are prepared to lead institutions that remain central to workforce development, economic mobility, and democratic vitality.
- MCC's Adult Education and HiSET Program will host its annual HiSET graduation on Thursday, April 30. All HiSET completers from the previous year are invited to attend; graduates from MCC's remote program based in Havre are also included in the recognition ceremony.
- Miles Community College will host its 86th annual commencement on Saturday, May 2, at 10:00am in the MCC Centra Kailey Gymnasium. Distinguished Alumni Award recipient Jess Peterson will provide the commencement address. The 2026 Nurses Pinning will be held Friday, May 1, at 3:00pm in the Kailey Gym.
- Each year at commencement, Miles Community College inducts the latest Distinguish Alumni Award winner into the MCC Hall of Fame. The 2026 honoree is [Jess Peterson](#), a fifth-generation Montana rancher and a 2002 graduate of MCC. Following his time at MCC, Peterson earned a Bachelor of Arts in Applied Communication from Gonzaga University. Peterson is the founder and president of Western Skies Strategies, a public policy, executive management, and strategic communications firm established in 2007. Through his work, he has assisted a wide range of clients—including ranchers, nonprofit organizations, land managers, and energy and telecommunications companies—in navigating local, state, and federal policy processes. Peterson also serves as Executive Director of the Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority, where he has overseen strategic planning, financial operations, and regional engagement efforts. Additionally, Peterson serves as a Senior Policy Advisor for the United States Cattleman's Association.

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