DAWSON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Date: Oct. 28, 2026
To: Montana Board of Regents
From: Chad Knudson
President, Dawson Community College
RE: Campus report for November 2026 Board of Regents Meeting

- Dawson saw significant enrollment improvement during fall 2026. As of October, headcount was up 34%, while resident FTE rose 19%. This is the second fall to record double digit growth in both categories. This was partially offset by declines in non-resident and WUE. Overall FTE is up 10%.

- Dawson hosted its third-annual Cultivating Careers event in September. The event, held in conjunction with DLI and the Montana Chamber of Commerce exposed about 400 area middle and high school students to a wide variety of hands-on work experiences.

- After two and a half years of implementation, Jenzabar One, which replaces Banner, is live and staff are working hard on data and process validations. There are moments of both genuine excitement and frustration depending on the hour and the day, but we are pleased to be at the finish line of this enormous undertaking.

- Dawson launched a new class called THRIVE 101. This elective course is designed to give psychology and education students the opportunity to engage in hands-on learning while supporting local elementary students. The class arose following discussions with the local mental health coalition, where the need for support, mentorship and mental health resources for area youth was identified as a community priority. The first class has been well-received, and a second is planned for spring 2027.

- The Dawson College Foundation held its annual Buccaneer Bash on Oct. 3. Approximately 300 community members joined the event and helped raise about $50,000 to support student scholarships at DCC.

- DCC athletics launched junior varsity programs in both men's and women's basketball in fall 2026. This gives students from across Montana the chance to play college basketball. In the past, these students would likely have been red-shirt freshman with no opportunity to play. The JV held their first games against Rocky Mountain College's JV teams on Oct. 21.



Freshman Shayde St. Goddard from Browning, teaches elementary students the basics of pow-wow dancing.

- Dawson hosted its annual Indigenous People's Day on Oct. 12. In addition to an evening program, members of the Indigenous People's Club hosted elementary students, including all Glendive first graders and students from three other area schools.