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Date: Sept. 9, 2026
To: Montana Board of Regents
From: Chad C. Knudson
President, Dawson Community College
RE: Campus report for September 2026 Board of Regents Meeting

- Dawson Community College is focused on fundamentals and core competencies. We are focused on programs that make sense in rural Montana.
- Criminal Justice: continues to attract traditional age students, as it also deploys our campus resources to train and up-skill working members of law enforcement. Significant financial support from the local Masonic Lodge and important relationship building with the Montana Law Enforcement Academy, POST and all stakeholders has helped Dawson become an important training center for law enforcement across Eastern Montana.
- Welding: is experiencing a super-charged moment. We are adding equipment, redesigning work spaces, adding staff and generally working to respond to significant expansion in the program. This summer we replaced a welding instructor, and added two welding assistants. One part-time assistant is a veteran welding instructor who came out of retirement, the other is a recent student who returned to Dawson. This program is about 50% larger than two years ago.
- Education: continues to grow. DCC's paraprogram in exclusive partnership with OPI, has exceeded all expectations. We have served well over 1,000 level one participants, have participants from nearly every Montana county, and now have some working toward a degree. We continue to build upon this program.
- Science: we hired a brilliant young man in Dr. Dawson Hollingsworth. He has done extensive medical research and advanced studies. We successfully set Dr. Hollingsworth up with a recently retired chemistry teacher of about 35 years. The mentor, mentee relationship is working well.
- Math: Calvin Dean and Ian Wallace. Calvin is a veteran teacher and administrator who brings a wealth of experience, while Ian is an eager young scholar starting out in teaching. Their mentor, mentee relationship will also serve DCC well.
- Workforce: Dan Peters has joined our team as Director of Adult Basic and Continuing Education. Dan will be charged with a wide portfolio which includes workforce training, he has experience as an educator and administrator.
- DCC will host its third annual Cultivating Careers event on Sept. 23. Held in conjunction with the Montana Chamber Foundation, this event is designed to expose middle school and high school students to a wide variety of potential workforce roles. This event regularly attracts a wide variety of employers (40-50) and a significant number of area students (400-500).
- Dawson announced that we will field a women's flag football team beginning in spring 2027. Flag football is the fastest growing collegiate sport and has undergone enormous growth in Montana high schools over the past few years. Dawson is committed to being on the cutting edge of meeting Montana students' interests.