

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

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CAMPUS REPORT | Board of Regents Meeting | September 24, 2026



**GREAT FALLS
COLLEGE**
MONTANA STATE
UNIVERSITY

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Dr. Leanne Frost was named CEO and dean of Great Falls College in August. A longtime member of the college leadership team, serving most recently as the executive director of instruction and student success since 2021, Frost assumes the role as the college continues to build on significant momentum, including sustained enrollment growth of about 25 percent since 2021, expanded career and technical education opportunities and innovative community partnerships that have increased educational and workforce opportunities across the region. Frost is looking forward to the opportunity and plans to build on the momentum the college achieved under the leadership of Dr. Stephanie Erdmann.

Dr. Elfriede Neber is serving as interim executive director of instruction for the 2026-27 academic year. Neber, a longtime faculty member in the Social Sciences department, brings deep institutional knowledge and universal respect on and off campus to serve in this transitional role. The college will launch a national search in the coming months for the permanent position to start July 1, 2027.

Great Falls College's Early Learning Center remains on track to open this fall as the college assumes operations of the childcare center. The college recently hired a director and assistant director and will host a community open house on Sept. 11, ahead of the center's official opening on Sept. 14. With the college running the center, it will be able to provide more affordable and more flexible options for students and employees who need childcare. The center also will be open to members of the public. Students in the Early Childhood Education academic program will have an opportunity to apply their learning in a real-world setting under the supervision of qualified staff members.

Great Falls College's Mountain West Hub for Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses continues to expand its reach and impact. The program launched its second-ever Montana cohort this fall, celebrated graduates from its first Idaho cohort and is recruiting participants for its first Arizona cohort. In 2027, the Great Falls College-based team will be the first in the nation to operate three cohorts in three states in a year as the team continues to set performance benchmarks for the program.

The college expanded its alumni and community engagement efforts with the addition of Lane McAlpine as coordinator of events and alumni relations. Early initiatives have focused on reconnecting graduates with the college through community events, outreach and conversations about how alumni can share their expertise with current students and the community. McAlpine is also leading a campaign encouraging local businesses to display decals in their windows as a visible show of support for higher education in Great Falls through a partnership with the Chamber of Commerce.

Great Falls College is entering the final year of its strategic plan and is beginning development of a plan that will take effect July 1, 2027. The process will engage students, employees, alumni and community members in discussions about the college's mission, values and priorities for the future. Building on recent momentum, the new plan will focus on expanding opportunities, strengthening workforce partnerships, supporting student success and deepening the college's impact throughout the community.