

**DATE:** 1/28/2009

**TO:** Board of Regents

**FROM:** Stefani Hicswa  
President, Miles Community College

**RE:** Campus Report for the March 4-6, 2009 Board of Regents' Meeting

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- **Josh Bilbrey**, Miles Community College Equine Studies Instructor, won the 2008 NILE (Northern International Livestock Exposition) Horse Trainers Challenge event at the Billings NILE on Friday, October 17. Josh was one of three horse trainers that were selected by application to take an untrained 5-7 year old registered Quarter Horse donated by the Hall Ranch of Chinook, Montana for 90 days. The horses were brought to the 2008 NILE to compete against each other in a special challenge showcasing the skills of the trainers and the abilities of the horses under saddle. Josh was the trainer with the highest score and was named the 2008 NILE Horse Trainers Challenge Champion. The Challenge horses were sold in a special section of the NILE Gold Buckle Performance Sale on October 18 with the proceeds designated for scholarship funds of the Koenig children of Baker (four children) and the Moline children of Geraldine, Montana (six children). The Koenig family lost both of their parents in a farm accident four years ago and the Moline children lost their mother following a horse accident in fall 2007.
- **Jessie Dufner** of Miles City, Miles Community College Director of Student Financial/Enrollment Services, was recognized as the recipient of the Oscar R. "Jack" Hendrix Rookie of the Year at the RMASFAA (Rocky Mountain Association of Student Financial Administrators) Annual Conference held October 19-22 in Sioux City, SD. The award is presented to an individual who is a RMASFAA member and has made a significant "first contribution" to the Association within the last year. Jessie is currently serving as the Membership Chair of RMASFAA and is President-Elect of MASFAA (Montana Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators). Jessie was also spotlighted in the October 2008 "*Rocky Mountain Exchange*", the RMASFAA quarterly newsletter. RMASFAA is a professional organization of individuals that work at institutions dedicated to administering college financial aid and represent all types of colleges in Wyoming, Utah, South Dakota, North Dakota, Nebraska, Montana, Kansas and Colorado. Ms. Dufner began employment at Miles Community College in 2002. She was hired as a student recruiter and Carl Perkins coordinator then assumed the Financial Aid Director position from 2003-2006. Jessie was employed as a campus outreach manager for Student Financial Assistance (SAF) before she returned to Miles Community College as the Director of Student Financial/Enrollment Services in 2007.
- **James P. Lucas** of Miles City, former Miles Community College Board of Trustee and founder and member of the MCC Endowment Board, was honored at the ACCT (Association of Community College Trustees) 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Community College Leadership Congress in New York City October 29-November 1. Jim Lucas was selected as the 2008 Western Regional Trustee Leadership Award Recipient. He was nominated by the current MCC Board of Trustees and has been an active trustee for over 40 years, member of the College Athletic Booster Club, and has been member and served as president a number of times of the College Endowment Board since its 1964 inception. Mr. Lucas attended the ACCT Congress with his wife, Carol, daughter Leslie, MCC President Hicswa and MCC Board of Trustee members, Sharon Wilcox and Garret McFarland.

- Fall Pioneer Preview Day was held on Monday, November 17. Seventy prospective students and parents attended to learn about MCC academics and advising, housing, campus life, admissions information, and financial assistance. Student Ambassadors provided campus tours for participants.
- **Shawn Neary**, MCC Head Men's Basketball coach, was hired for the same position at Gillette College in Wyoming. Neary, who was in his 13<sup>th</sup> season as Pioneers head coach, resigned from MCC at the end of the fall semester and has begun building the program at Gillette College. Gillette College will prepare for their first season of college basketball in 2009-2010 and will compete in the NJCAA Region IX. Coach Neary just recently won his 200<sup>th</sup> game as MCC's head coach and is the all-time wins leader in Pioneer basketball history and the first coach in the program's history to get 200 wins. He has won a Mon-Dak Conference championship and a north sub-region title during his time as the Pioneers head coach. During the Neary era, eighty-six percent of all the sophomores that played for Coach Neary graduated from Miles Community College and eighty-six percent of his sophomores **have** transferred to four-year colleges and universities across the country. The Pioneers have also been named NJCAA Academic Team of the Year seven times during Coach Neary's tenure including three times (1998-1999, 2001-2002, 2006-2007) in which they had the highest team grade point average in the nation among junior college men's basketball teams.
- **Chase Tait**, has joined the MCC Pioneers as Head Men's Basketball coach after spending the past season and a half at the University of Montana – Western in Dillon. Prior to joining the Bulldog staff, he served as head coach at Huntley Project High School from 2006-07. Before his stint at Huntley Project, Chase served as the assistant varsity coach and head junior varsity coach at Montana Tech in Butte for four seasons (2002-06). Tait served as the girls head coach at Fairfield High School from 1994-2002 and the boys coach from 1997-2002, from 1993-97 he also served as the boys assistant. While at Fairfield, Tait's girls' team in 1994-95 finished Class "B" State runner-up. He also was a nominee for the Montana Coaches Association Coach-of-the-Year award that same year as well. Chase received his undergrad degree from Montana State University in 1992 while serving as an assistant coach for the Bozeman High School girls' team. He majored in Elementary Education (K-8) while at MSU. In 2005, Tait received a Master of Education/Technology in Education degree from Lesley University. He is a Montana native, graduating from Polson High School in 1988. He has coached in the state for nearly 20 years either at the high school or college level.
- Automotive Technology students provided their 6<sup>th</sup> annual vehicle winter check on December 5 for the Miles City Retired Senior Volunteers (RSVP) organization. The students, under the supervision of Instructor David McIntyre, provided 10-15 senior citizen vehicles with 41-point free inspections as a community service learning project. This annual event provides valuable hands-on and customer service skills learning experience for automotive program students
- The Phi Theta Kappa and Multicultural student service clubs partnered for a food drive during December. Students received and delivered 250 pounds of donated food items and \$280 in donations to the Custer County Food Bank to be distributed to needy families.
- **Robin Gerber**, Social Sciences and Humanities Instructor, was named Miles Community College Employee of the Fall 2008 Semester, receiving the Blue and Silver Award. Ms. Gerber received the award at in service workshops held for Miles Community College employees on Monday, January 13. Stefani Hicswa, Miles Community College President, presented the award. Robin has been employed with the College since 1998. She received her Associate of Arts degree from Miles Community College and Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees from the University of Montana-Missoula. She has served as a faculty advisor for the Multicultural Club student organization and has served as director of the Miles Community College Players for the last eight

years, writing many of the dramatic productions. Ms. Gerber was recognized as the 2006 Montana State Professor of the Year by the U.S. Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), sponsored by The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Robin submitted and received a grant in Fall 2005 to develop a culturally-based curriculum for Grades 1-8 as a part of the State of Montana's Indian Education for All Act. Her curriculum and cultural activity book "Common Ground" is a workbook of reproducible activity worksheets for children, was presented to the State of Montana for publication in early 2008. An avid researcher and devoted to sharing community history with the younger generations, Robin researched and wrote a child's history book entitled "A Long Way From Anywhere—A History of Miles City, MT—For Kids," in 2005/2006. She is a member of the Miles City Women's Club, past commissioner on the Historic Preservation Board, and is a member of the Miles City Public Library Board.