

Montana's All Star Community College/Two-Year College

2013 All Academic Team

The purpose of Phi Theta Kappa is to recognize and encourage scholarship among associate degree students. To achieve this purpose, the organization provides opportunities for the development of leadership and service.

Phi Theta Kappa, community college presidents and community college state associations sponsor All-State Community College Academic Team ceremonies in 37 participating states.

The following students were nominated by their respective two-year college faculty and staff and represent some of the best and brightest students in our State's two-year and community colleges. Upon nomination, each of these students was automatically named to the All-State Community College Academic Teams.

Tanner Morrison from Flathead Valley Community College was also named the New Century Scholar for the State of Montana.

The student receiving the highest All-USA Community College Academic Team application score in each state is named a Coca-Cola New Century Scholar and represents his/her state in the opening ceremonies at the American Association of Community Colleges Convention. In addition, one student from a Phi Theta Kappa chapter in Canada and one student from a Phi Theta Kappa chapter in the other seven sovereign nations where Phi Theta Kappa chapters exist are named Coca-Cola New Century Scholars. Each Coca-Cola New Century Scholar will receive a \$2,000 scholarship, and each institution will receive special recognition at the American Association of Community Colleges Convention.

The Coca-Cola New Century Scholars program is sponsored annually by the American Association of Community Colleges, The Coca-Cola Foundation, the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, and Phi Theta Kappa.



**New Century Scholar and All-State Academic Team Member
Tanner Morrison**

Kalispell

Flathead Valley Community College (FVCC) – Engineering

Future Plans: After graduating from FVCC this May, Tanner plans to transfer to MSU-Bozeman to continue his studies in mechanical engineering.

Tanner is a member of the Scholars Program at FVCC, the college's distinguished Honors program, and is an active participant in the FVCC Foundation's Student Ambassadors Program, where he has played a supportive role in raising money for student scholarships, academic programs, and the college's first privately-funded building, the Rebecca Chaney Broussard Center for Nursing and Health Science. In addition, Tanner participated on the college's 2013 Whitefish Winter Carnival Penguin Plunge team, helping raise more than \$50,000 for Montana Special Olympics. This spring, Tanner participated in the Western Regional Honors Conference in Flagstaff, Ariz., where he presented his research, and this April, he delivered an award-winning presentation at the Montana Space Grant Consortium Solar Spectrograph Competition at Montana State University in Bozeman. A 2011 graduate of Glacier High School, Tanner was a four-year high school varsity letter winner in the shot put and discus. In his spare time, Tanner serves as a volunteer coach for the Glacier High School Track and Field team.



All-State Academic Team Member
Abbie Coakley

Pennsylvania

Miles Community College – Communications

Future Plans: Abbie plans to pursue a Bachelor's degree in communications and business.

Abbie Coakley moved to Miles City in 2010. In 2011, Abbie enrolled in MCC in the Associate of Arts program as a non-traditional student. In April 2012, Abbie was inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, and elected president of the local chapter. Additionally, Abbie was nominated to the All-USA Academic Team, receiving a certificate for exceptional academic achievement. Abbie has been named to the Dean's List and the President's Honor Roll and was invited to enroll in MCC's honors course, *The Ascent of Man*. At a recent awards banquet in April 2013, Abbie was recognized for merit and accomplishment by Who's Who among Students in American Universities & Colleges, and received awards for Honor Graduate and Outstanding Graduate. Graduating from MCC in May 2013, Abbie will have the honor of delivering the ceremonial student address.



All-State Academic Team Member

Dustin Spivey

Arizona

Great Falls College (GFC)-MSU – Sustainable Energy Technology

Future Plans: After graduating from GFC-MSU this May, Dustin plans to transfer to MSU in the fall to pursue a bachelor's degree in computer engineering.

Dustin says he dropped out of college the first time. When he moved to Montana, his initial reason for enrolling at GFC-MSU was simply that school was more affordable in this state. He stayed because of all the incredible opportunities that were available to him at the college. He has made it a personal goal to achieve academic excellence and leadership on campus this time – and has met that goal. Dustin wishes to learn as much as possible, whether it be in school or in a career. His philosophy is every opportunity can be a great learning experience.



**All-State Academic Team Member
John Godwin**

Great Falls

Great Falls College (GFC)-MSU – Graphic Design & Web Design

Future Plans: After visiting with MSU-Billings, he has decided the best direction for him is a four-year degree in Communications and Management. His goal is to work in the non-profit sector, marketing and management side. He says his background will put him in an executive director position.

John's daughter graduated from the University of Montana in 2004 as the first higher education graduate in their immediate family. His son started school at the University of Minnesota at the same time as John started at GFC-MSU. He says it has been great to commiserate with his children as they face similar challenges. As the photo-finishing industry imploded in the face of digital image capture, John saw the business that he had owned for 25 years shrink by 20% per year. He did not have a degree, and every job he saw advertised needed one. Looking at the available options, he decided GFC-MSU was the perfect fit. Though apprehensive while going through the enrollment process, he gives kudos to Dale Sivumaki for all of his encouragement from the first day.

John completed the Associate of Applied Science in Graphic Design and Web Design in just two years. After deciding to pursue a four-year degree, he completed the core classes at MSU-GF, earning an Associate of Arts, as well as an Associate of Science, and will receive his degree by December 2013.