

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

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CAMPUS REPORT | Board of Regents Meeting | June 30, 2020



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Great Falls College MSU along with our colleagues across the state responded quickly to the COVID-19 pandemic. The college's 8-Week Advantage truly became an advantage in that our students had just completed the first block of classes; thus, earning credits with no disruption to those classes. Through careful but rapid planning, faculty and staff worked tirelessly to ensure students would be as successful for the second block. Faculty used simulation, lecture capture, WebEx, Zoom, and maintained high-quality standards for online and remote learning. Student Affairs professionals used similar technologies to retain frequent contact with students. Another advantage was that more than 90% of the college's faculty have been offering classes and some degrees online and remotely for many years, and students are used to learning using multiple modalities.

The online degrees offered at Great Falls College MSU include the Accounting AAS, the Health Information Technology AAS, the Health Information Coding Specialist CAS, the AA and AS, and the MUS Core Certificate. These are all ways Great Falls College increases access to a degree for our working families. Currently the college offers Dental Assistant, Surgical Technology, and Practical Nurse degree programs to students across the state through remote learning that includes synchronous lectures, occasional trips to the college for labs, and clinical classes offered in the students' local communities. The ability to earn a degree while continuing to live and work in their communities addresses the rural divide.

ADF, International provided a unique workplace learning opportunity for five welding students during the second 8-week block. The students earned wages while learning at a production site. The students, company, and college were pleased with this arrangement, and plans are being made to continue this partnership.

The 2020 Commencement celebrations were certainly unique throughout the MUS. Great Falls College MSU's 295 graduates received [Commencement Boxes](#) tailored to each graduate. Along with the celebratory items, included in each box was a QR code linked to a [Commencement Video](#) containing special messages for the graduates. All 2020 graduates have been invited to walk at the 2021 commencement ceremony.

The Great Falls College Academic Success Center sponsored the 2020 Student of the Year Awards honoring 25 students from across all programs. While they could not gather to celebrate in person, those who nominated the students provided a [celebratory video](#) with original music provided by students Laura and Ryan Detrick.

Great Falls College MSU recognized 152 students as members of the [Dean's List](#) for the spring 2020 semester. These students represented 30 Montana towns and four other states.

The Great Falls College Teaching and Learning Center is offering Workshop Wednesdays this summer. Workshops offered include Creativity in Online Courses; Online Instruction Best Practices; WebEx Education Connector; Panopto; Flipped and Flexible Instruction; Teams, Slack, and Other Collaborative Tools; and Respondus. Facilitated via WebEx, the workshops provide faculty with OPI licensure renewal units and may be used toward full-time faculty promotion.

The [Center for Lifelong Learning](#) announced its exciting lineup of summer activities. Children and adults have the opportunity to participate in face-to-face and online options. A partnership with Ed2Go provides a series of online professional development courses.

Great Fall College MSU has begun Phase I of the Dental Clinic expansion with the re-routing of existing utilities. It is anticipated work will be complete by mid-August. Design work for phase II, building construction, is complete and advertising for a general contractor has commenced. Construction is on track to begin early this fall with a July 2021 completion date.