



DATE: 06.16.21

TO: Board of Regents

FROM: Ron Slinger
President, Miles Community College

RE: Campus Report for the July 2021 Board of Regents Meeting

- MCC held its 80th Commencement Ceremony on Saturday, May 8 and awarded 131 degrees to 117 students. Thirty-three students earned a cumulative GPA of 3.75 or higher and were recognized as Honor Graduates. Of those 33, seven were named Valedictorians and graduated with a 4.0 cumulative GPA. Three of this year's graduates were named the 2021 Outstanding Graduates; included were Favour Chukwukel in the Arts & Sciences Division, Jakim Ricketts in the Career and Technical Division, and Belinda Forman in the Nursing Division. Dr. Eileen Hemman, COL (Ret.) provided the commencement address and was inducted into the Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame.
- During the 2021 Commencement Ceremony, two awards were given to staff and faculty members for excellence in the workplace and enhancing student success. This year's Excellence in Teaching Award winner was Kristin Buck, M.S., Science Instructor. Kristin has been teaching at MCC since 2007 and is a valuable member of several campus committees that directly impact the curriculum and instructional process. She teaches courses in Animal Science, Chemistry, and Physics. As the campus quickly pivoted to remote instruction with the statewide stay-at-home order in March of 2020, Kristin adapted her science labs, typically very hands-on courses taught on campus, to be delivered synchronously to students via Zoom.
- The 2021 Staff Excellence and Innovation Award was given to Jessica Lofland, M.B.A., Coordinator of Student Life and College Housing. Jessica has been at MCC since 2016 and had to be especially innovative this year as the MCC campus and our students navigated the pandemic and our related campus changes. Jessica has also been innovative in improving housing procedures, such as application, reapplication, and deposit return, making processes easier for the Business Office and improving the communication students receive throughout the application, housing, and check-out process.
- Both Miles Community College Baseball and Softball programs saw success in the post-season. The Pioneer Baseball team were both regular season MonDak Conference Champions and Region XIII Champions, with a school record of 44 wins in the 2021 season. Pioneer Dawson Parry was selected as the NJCAA DII 1st Team All-American and lead the nation in home runs, RBI's, hits, and slugging percentage. The Pioneer Softball program finished their inaugural season with a record of 29-15-1 and were the Region XII West and Region XII Champions. MCC Softball Coach Juarez received Region XIII Coach of the Year along side multiple player awards including Kassidy Kinzie (Region XIII Playoff MVP) and Autumn Porter (NJCAA DII 2nd Team All-American).
- Montana Senator Steve Daines and his wife Cindy visited MCC on May 4 for a tour of the Ag Advancement Center and Champion Arena. They discussed multiple topics with MCC representatives including the new meat processing program with Program Coordinator Tina Rutledge, as well as other current agriculture issues with Ag Instructor Kim Gibbs.

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