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Montana State University President Waded Cruzado and Commissioner of Higher Education Clayton Christian announced [Dr. Stephanie Erdmann](#) will be the new dean and CEO for Great Falls College MSU. Erdmann currently serves as the vice president of academic affairs and Rice Lake Campus administrator for Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College in Rice Lake, Wisconsin, a position she has held since 2018. Erdmann first joined the college in 2015 as a divisional dean in the business program.

Steve Robinett, the computer technology program director at Great Falls College MSU, doesn't mince words when describing the first-of-its kind internship three of his [cybersecurity students](#) are receiving through the Montana Department of Administration. "We struck gold with this," Robinett said. The state also raved about the students' preparation and work ethic.

[Melissa Wells](#) has been named the second program director in the history of the respiratory therapy program at Great Falls College MSU. She will replace [Leonard Bates](#), who is retiring after starting the program in 1981, when she begins her duties on July 1. Wells is coming from the Sacramento, California, area, where she works as an instructor in the both the medical assisting and respiratory therapy programs at American River College. She has worked as a bedside respiratory therapist for the past 18 years, in addition to her academic experience.

Great Falls College MSU students Ginny McCracken, Alexander Springer and Elise Conter all were selected for the [Bridges to the Baccalaureate](#) summer enrichment program at Montana State University. Bridges helps Montana's tribal college and community college students prepare to transfer into biomedical and other health science fields at Montana State University in Bozeman.

Former Great Falls College student and Montana Technological University junior [Frankie Johnston](#) has been awarded the 2021 Barry Goldwater Scholarship. The award is the most prestigious undergraduate scholarship awarded in the natural sciences, mathematics and engineering in the United States. While at Great Falls College, Johnston worked with Dr. Brenda Canine on a research project comparing the levels of probiotics in Kombucha tea cultures to commercially available, over-the-counter probiotics.

The Great Falls College MSU admissions team of Laramie Smovir and Connor Frakes attempt to answer the question of what makes a person successful in a radio show/podcast titled "[Learned Luck](#)" that will air on KGPR public radio in Great Falls and on podcast platforms. It will frequently showcase Great Falls College faculty and staff members such as first guest [Dr. Darryl Stevens](#).

The partnership between Great Falls College and Montana State University-Northern has been very successful educating the next [crop of teachers](#) in northcentral Montana. The programs held an open house in April.

Great Falls College MSU welding students have been gaining [real-world experience](#) around northcentral Montana as they learn about job possibilities. Joel Sims, trades program director at Great Falls College, said he looks for ways to expose the students to potential employers so the students can see what is out there, and those in the field can see the quality of the students.

Great Falls College MSU's Lifelong Learning Center responded to community need and started a [nursing assistant program](#) to address a shortage of CNAs in the community. The four-week courses will run each month. "We are so excited to offer these classes, which are necessary to fill critical workforce needs for our healthcare partners," said program director Tammie Hickey.