MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

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CAMPUS REPORT | Board of Regents Meeting | November 18-19, 2021

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY | GREAT FALLS COLLEGE

Great Falls College celebrated completion of its expanded dental clinic on Sept. 24 with a ribbon-cutting event that featured Montana State University President Waded Cruzado, retired Great Falls College CEO/Dean Susan J. Wolff and state Sen. Brian Hoven, among others. Great Falls College CEO/Dean Stephanie Erdmann emceed the event, celebrating the completion of the 12,000-square-foot addition that will allow the state's only dental hygiene program to admit more students to fill the workforce void in Montana, the region, and the nation. Great Falls College's dental assisting program, one of just two in the state, was started in 1967. The 2019 Legislature appropriated $4.25 million for the expansion thanks to wide bi-partisan support from all corners of Montana. The event was livestreamed and recorded because of COVID-19 protocols limiting the number of people who attended.

Great Falls College MSU and Montana State University-Northern signed an agreement that strengthens the ability of students in the Great Falls area to get a bachelor's degree in education on the Great Falls College campus. Students will get their first two years through Great Falls College and then take their second two years with Montana State-Northern on the beautiful Great Falls College campus. Chancellor Greg Kegel and Provost R. Neil Moisey from MSU-Northern joined Dr. Stephanie Erdmann, CEO/dean of Great Falls College, and Dr. Leanne Frost, executive director of instruction at Great Falls College, to sign the agreement.

Great Falls College computer technology instructor Cheryl Simpson has been selected to be one of the mentors to 70 high school teachers from the region who have been recruited to teach cybersecurity content and principles, as a way to build a pipeline for youths to going into the cybersecurity profession. Simpson and the other mentors' work is part of City University of Seattle's $700,000 National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity (located with the National Security Agency) grant to fund the Cybersecurity Highschool Innovation, which is a collaborative multi-state initiative to develop high school cybersecurity teachers.

Great Falls College was excited to partner with the community to play host to four events as part of Stop the Stigma Week. Dr. Elfie Neber, a behavioral science faculty member at Great Falls College MSU, is a driving force in the week, which aims to help stop the stigma associated with addictive disorders and mental health issues. "Nobody is exempt from these struggles, and we are so pleased to be able to help offer the community tools that will help one another come together and address these issues," Neber said.

Great Falls College expanded its vision for dual enrollment by creating a dual enrollment program coordinator position, and it found the perfect person for the job in Jessica Dykstra, who was already at the college working as an academic advisor. Dykstra is excited to couple her experiences as an English teacher in area schools with her advising experience to build relationships with students, teachers, and administrators from throughout the region. Dykstra's job will encompass a lot, including helping dual-enrollment students find a plan and path. She also will be doing outreach to the schools in the region as a liaison between them and Great Falls College. An area she is exploring is creating academies for dual enrollment students, so students can concentrate on areas of interest such as health care, business and accounting, education, and computer technology, for example.

Great Falls College's Office of Student Engagement and Weaver Library combined for a fun-filled week of activities around Constitution Day, including trivia contests and a video from history instructor Dr. Darryl Stevens that looks back to our country's founding with a look into contemporary politics.