

# MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

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CAMPUS REPORT | Board of Regents Meeting | January 6, 2022



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Physical Therapy Assistant student Miguel Joson earned free tuition spring semester as part of the Great Falls College's Office of Student Engagement vaccine incentive program to keep the campus and community health and safe. He won the random drawing for those who elected to get vaccinated. Many other students won weekly drawings. Great Falls College also put on two vaccine clinics in the fall. The first, in collaboration with Alluvion Health, was such a success that Alluvion had to run out to get more vaccines. The second, in partnership with Cascade City-County Health, was a Covid and flu vaccine clinic. The college's nursing students administered the flu vaccines. Again, demand was quite high.

Kerry Dolan, Great Falls College's accounting program director, was selected by the college's Veterans Center as the Student Veterans Service Award winner for her work with those who are military connected. The Veterans Center displayed U.S. flags around campus and honored students, faculty and staff who served with photo collages in Freedom Hall. The Veterans Center also offers meals to military-connected students during the lunch hour on Wednesdays.

Dugan Coburn, Great Falls Public Schools' director of Indian Education and a former staff member at Great Falls College, showed students how to erect a tipi on the north lawn of the college for Native American Heritage Month. He told a few tribes' tipi-origin stories and what the tipi meant to Indigenous people. The school district and Coburn also put up 12 tipis representing all of Montana's tribes at the district offices overlooking the community's main thoroughfare on 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. After sundown, the tipis are lit up in different colors representing different meanings. The Office of Student Engagement also put on a series of long and short films to bring focus to Indigenous people and culture for Native American Heritage Month.

Great Falls College honored its First Generation students with a ceremony and meal on Nov. 8, and Kathy Meier, disability services director, told of her path as a First Gen student who started her collegiate journey as a student in her forties. Her family background and the generation she grew up in didn't make college seem possible for young women, but she eventually grew tired of working a dead-end job and decided to take classes. She told the students about how it changed her life.

Trista Besich, Alluvion Health CEO, and Casey Schreiner, Alluvion's chief strategic officer, toured Great Falls College's newly expanded dental clinic with Dr. Stephanie Erdmann, CEO/dean of Great Falls College, and other campus officials to celebrate Alluvion's \$15,000 donation to the student lab in the clinic. "We are so thankful for our community partners like Alluvion Health, who make it possible for our students to learn and work in the most modern facilities available so they are prepared to hit the ground running when they enter the workforce," Erdmann said. The leaders also discussed other ways to collaborate. "Alluvion Health focuses on whole-patient, whole-life care, and this extends beyond our clinics into areas like education," Schreiner said.

Great Falls College's Community Choir teamed up with the C.M. Russell High Chamber Orchestra for "A Baroque Christmas" concert that was open to the community. The choir, which had been shut down for a year and half, has enjoyed getting back together. "GFC3 is the only true team that Great Falls College has, so it is time to get the team back together and start rehearsing and performing again," said Cynthia Stevens, choir director. It was the choir's second concert back after performing in October at Montana State Music Teachers Association community choir concert.