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CAMPUS REPORT | Board of Regents Meeting | March 10-11, 2022



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Dr. Stephanie Erdmann, CEO/dean of Great Falls College MSU, urged faculty and staff members to keep their attention on [transforming the lives of students](#) by helping them find meaningful careers and purpose at convocation to kick off the spring semester. She spoke of two students who have overcome major obstacles to put their lives back on track at Great Falls College. “I love those kinds of stories,” Erdmann said. “Thank you for all you do.” A recording of the event, which was held face to face and virtually, is [here](#).

One of the students Erdmann referred to in her convocation is [Oliver Main](#), who dropped out of high school at 15 and began work because “I thought I was being smart.” But he began to want more out of life and went to Great Falls Public Schools’ Career and College Readiness Center on Great Falls College’s campus, and they helped him get his HiSET and then enroll at Great Falls College, where he fell in love with psychology. He is now studying forensic psychology at the University of Providence after both schools worked with him to smooth out the transfer process. Oliver’s wife, Emillianna, is also studying at Great Falls College to become a nurse. Oliver speaks highly of their time at Great Falls College. “I’m a nontraditional student,” he said. “I had a job. I have children. I have a wife. And sometimes things would pop up, and none of these teachers ever made me feel like a burden to them. That, I really appreciated.”

Great Falls College graduate [Julia Vogt was surprised at the capitol](#) when she drove down from her home in Belt to celebrate a new memorandum of understanding reached between Gov. Greg Gianforte and Western Governors University President Scott Pulsipher that establishes a statewide affiliation. She knew she was invited to the ceremony, but she had no idea she would be receiving a scholarship to Western Governors, where she is pursuing a degree in software development after getting her associate degree from Great Falls College. “WGU makes it possible for me to earn a degree and get a great job – without leaving my hometown or moving out of state,” Vogt said.

Great Falls College MSU welding students recently got a [real-world lesson on welding inspections](#) when they met with Loenbro employees as part of the welding program’s commitment to showcase to as many industry partners as possible to give them an idea of all of the career paths available to them. . “Fortunately, we have incredible industry partners, like Loenbro, who are happy to work with our students so they can see the full breadth of opportunities available to them,” said Joel Sims, trades division director at Great Falls College.” Mission accomplished. “It opened my eyes that there are other jobs out there in the welding industry,” said Brian Tucker, a second-year welding program student at the college.

Great Falls College MSU just learned its [welding test facility](#) has been accredited again through the American Welding Society as an Accredited Test Facility. The Accredited Test Facility program establishes minimum requirements for test facilities, their personnel and equipment to qualify for accreditation to test and qualify welders. “This is a win-win for Great Falls College and Montana,” said Sims, who also is the welding test center director in addition to his role as trades division director. “We are able to help test and qualify welders at an affordable cost in one of the best welding centers in the region. This means the college is earning some income, and area businesses can save money and time by having their welders qualified locally.”

The 21st annual [Bringing the U to You Great Falls Lecture Series](#), featuring presenters from both Montana State University and the University of Montana, got underway in January on Great Falls College MSU’s campus. The Bringing the U to You Lecture Series is a collaborative effort of the MSU and UM alumni associations.