

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

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CAMPUS REPORT | Board of Regents Meeting | July 12, 2024



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Great Falls College recognized [250 graduates](#) during its [commencement ceremony](#) at Montana ExpoPark's Pacific Steel and Recycling Arena on May 4. Sixty-two students earned high honors with a GPA of 3.75 or higher and an additional 45 earned honors with GPAs from 3.5 to 3.75. Many students received multiple degrees, so in total Great Falls College awarded 289 certificates and degrees. Sixteen dual-enrolled high school students received their certificates and degrees a month before receiving their high school diplomas, with four receiving their two-year associate degrees. The 2024 ceremony marked the first year Great Falls College awarded associate degrees in Substance Abuse and Addictions Counseling, Office Management and Supervision and Technical Studies. It also is the first year students earned a certificate of technical studies in Early Childhood Education at Great Falls College.

Hours before the commencement ceremony, Great Falls College celebrated the accomplishments of nine American Indian students with an [Eagle Feather](#) ceremony. Local elder Dugan Coburn talked about the power of education and the accomplishments of these warriors who persevered to get their degrees. The feathers symbolize respect, honor, courage and wisdom while also signifying an outstanding accomplishment.

The name of our River Otter mascot was unveiled at commencement: Mo! The [naming campaign](#) kicked off earlier in the semester with the campus and general public submitting 230 names. After several rounds of voting, 14 finalists emerged for a final round of voting from the general public. Mo, named after the Mighty Mo, aka Missouri River, was the overwhelming choice. Great Falls launched a campaign in late 2024 to select the school's mascot. River Otters were selected over Electric Elk and Wolverines in spring 2023. In total, more than 3,000 people participated in the campaign, which has helped the college solidify its brand. It also has contributed to a sense of fun on campus. Go Mo!

Great Falls College honored a pair of students for [major honors](#), with Ashley Haley bestowed the Newman Civic Fellow honors and Felicia McGee garnering the Montana Student Volunteer Award. Haley, a Substance Abuse and Addictions Counseling Program graduate, also works as Great Falls College's ambassador to the Native American Enrichment Center. McGee, a graduate of the Health Information Technology program, is a leader of the campus chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and an active student volunteer for many campus activities. She also organized a community warm clothing drive and a hygiene drive.

Great Falls College was the site of the Montana Academic Library Symposium in May. The focus of this year's symposium centered around three topics: artificial intelligence, intellectual and academic freedom and reconnecting with colleagues during a challenging time for libraries.

Great Falls College celebrated National Otter Day with a picnic and lawn games as a celebration of the end of another school year and all of the hard work that went into making it happen. The college earlier held an employee appreciation lunch and a student appreciation lunch featuring the students of the year from each academic department.

The communications department held a first-ever speech symposium, featuring six students who talked on a wide range of topics. Every seat was full in Heritage Hall.