



DATE: March 6, 2024

TO: Board of Regents

FROM: Justin Villmer
President, Dawson Community College

RE: Campus Report for the March 2024 Board of Regents' Meeting

- The President of Dawson Community College – Justin Villmer – has submitted his resignation effective April 12, 2024. The Dawson Community College Board of Trustees have met multiple times to build a plan on how to replace the President position.
 - As of the day of this report (3-6-2024), the Board of Trustees have interviewed the sole candidate and are meeting on March 12, 2024 to take action on hiring the individual or re-opening the position. The goal is to have a new President hired with enough transition time between the incoming and outgoing President. The Board of Trustees is planning to have a new President be introduced at the May Board of Regents meeting.
- Dawson Community College is behind on its annual audit, which is a legal requirement by the Department of Education as it processes financial aid. The College is currently working on its FY2022 audit, which was due March 31, 2023. The Department of Education is aware of the delay in the annual audit and has been in contact with the College. There has been turnover at DCC in the Dean of Finance and Operations position, which has created this challenge. Additionally, the auditing firm the College had lined up to complete the FY2021 audit was unable to complete the audit due to being short staffed. The FY2021 audit has been completed, and work on the FY2022 audit continues. The College is behind in this area and continues to struggle with getting caught up. This delay in annual audits has created several other challenges for the College.
- Dawson Community College has been utilizing Ellucian Banner as its main Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system since around 2010. Ellucian has made changes to how it offers its systems, which has ultimately forced Dawson Community College into a system to continue utilizing Banner or move to a different ERP system. The costs of migration are extremely expensive - \$750,000 - \$1,000,000, and on-going operating costs would increase almost 300% to

\$450,000 - \$500,000. As of the date of this report, the College has issued an RFP to review different ERP systems and develop a path forward.

- Dawson Community College hosted a very successful Winter Session for students. Enrollment for the roughly three-week-long courses was strong. Approximately sixty students were enrolled in at least one to two classes.
- For the second semester in the past ten years, Dawson Community College experienced enrollment of two hundred FTE of Montana residents. This has been one of the strategic priorities of the College, and many of these students are coming through our many dual enrollment efforts.
- Dawson Community College hosted its fifth annual Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. The inductees were:
 - Greg Barnett – main pitcher for the 1999-2001 seasons that lead the team to the only College World Series appearance, where they placed seventh.
 - Cheryl Van Dusen Peterson – she was the first all-region basketball player in 1980. The entire DCHS women's team was recruited as the women's basketball program was brought back to the College.
 - Doug Frederick – he was the second ever NJCAA All-American Basketball player for DawsonCC.
 - Mike Wilondek – played for DawsonCC in 1967, and later returned to the College as an employee, and served as a Trustee for nine years.
- Dawson Community College hosted an exhibition to honor Black History Month. The art collection consisted of pieces made by students and community members. It was open to the public and had strong student, employee, and community attendance.
- Dawson Community College has been supporting Brixtel Defense, the new ammunition manufacturer in Glendive, MT. They are planning to employ three hundred and fifty employees over the next five years. We continue to work together to ensure that they have properly trained individuals as they are working to open and expand its operations.
- The Dawson College Foundation received a \$1,800,000 endowment from Ellis and Irene Jones in fall 2022. These funds are now fully endowed and we will be issuing an additional \$36,000 in scholarships for Eastern Montana starting for the fall 2024 semester.