

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

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CAMPUS REPORT | Board of Regents Meeting | January 8, 2025



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Great Falls College, which has been selected as the western hub of the United States for Goldman Sachs' [10,000 Rural Small Businesses](#) initiative, officially signed the MOU in November and is hiring staff to run the initiative. Faculty have been selected for the modules and soon will undergo training from the curriculum designers at Babson College. Small businesses that make at least \$75,000 in revenue and have at least two employees, including the business owner, are eligible to apply to the program, which will take them through an extensive, all-paid, 12-week training and pair them with industry experts to help them grow their businesses. The program is budgeted to accept 30 students into the first cohort, which begins in March.

The Native American Enrichment Center and Military Family Center were set to move into their new homes at the heart of campus for the start of spring semester. The college also has hired two coordinators for the centers, and they are working on building camaraderie among those who visit them and connecting them with services the college has to help them through their education. The centers, which were both located in the back of the campus and have experienced declining participation since the pandemic, will have increased visibility. Student groups who use the facilities were instrumental in the design of the new spaces.

Great Falls College's Continuing Education and Training department recently held graduation ceremonies for the first graduates of its 10-week basic flooring class, in which participants have 75 contact hours each with carpet, hardwood, resilient and tile installation. Nationwide, there is a shortage of flooring installers. Many make \$100,000 or more annually. Structural welding students participate in the seven-week course to get basic welding skills that will help them gain entry-level jobs in a lucrative career field. Both spring cohorts for these programs are filling up quickly. Great Falls College offered these trainings after industry came to the college seeking solutions to fill workforce voids in the community.

Great Falls College saw strong enrollment again for Block B of its fall semester. Great Falls College's enrollment increased from 1,502 total students and 873 FTE at census to 1,565 head count and 882.4 FTE in Block B thanks to the 8-Week Advantage.

Great Falls College's Employee Engagement committee continued its work on building better community in response to feedback from employee satisfaction survey that indicated morale-building activities were of high importance to staff and faculty. The engagement committee developed monthly Mo Activities and there was an Indian taco competition, a hugely popular Soup Tour and Halloween costume contest. The college also coordinated its United Way fundraiser into fun campus events and met its goal with \$16,439 in gifts, pledges and event participation. All of the funds go to United Way of Cascade County to improve the education, health and financial stability of the community.

The college's branding efforts continued this fall with the arrival of the first new campus signs. Interior direction signs showcase the college's new brand built around everybody's favorite River Otter. The main campus building is now centered around five local rivers. In addition to helping branding efforts, the signs will make it easier to guide new students and visitors through campus. The interior signs are the tip of the iceberg as the college will be adding additional signs all around campus, including big signage at the entrances into our parking lot as we continue to differentiate ourselves from our across-the-street neighbors at the University of Providence.