



DATE: 12.10.2024

TO: Board of Regents

FROM: Dr. Ron Slinger
President, Miles Community College

RE: Campus Report for the January 2025 Board of Regents Meeting

- MCC Administration and Athletic Department Leadership welcomed Dr. Chris Parker, President/CEO of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA), to Miles City on October 27. Dr. Parker and Miles Community College President Dr. Ron Slinger both currently serve on the Board of Directors of the Rural Community College Alliance. “It was a great visit,” Slinger said. “We discussed our NJCAA Athletic teams, their success in the classroom, their success in competition, and our overall philosophy of our MCC Athletic Program. We then talked about the tremendous community support we have with over 80 businesses as sponsors.” Going through the specifics of the college’s programs and goals, Slinger explained that one possibility that came out of the conversation was for MCC to serve as an example for other small colleges that wish to add athletic programs, something he said he would personally be very happy to see.
- Walker Bennett of Helena, Montana, was recently recognized by the Montana Campus Network for Civic Engagement and honored with a Montana Athlete in Service Award. Each year the Network recognizes one student-athlete from each affiliate campus who has dedicated their efforts to serving the community while also pursuing their college degrees/certificates and participating in college sports. Walker is a second-year student at MCC and a member of the MCC Pioneer Baseball Team. He serves as President of the Associated Students of Miles Community College (ASMCC) and as a Resident Assistant in the residence halls on campus. As an engaged student and athlete, Bennett has helped with a variety of events on campus including Fall Carnival Night, which is held over Halloween each year and sees over 500 area school-aged children on campus for carnival-style games and treats. Bennett also helps develop resources for the food pantry on campus and organizes opportunities for fellow students to support the local Special Olympics organization through fundraising and games. Bennett has also contributed throughout his college career through other projects like children’s reading programs focused on imagination and physical activities such as youth baseball camps that inspire the younger generations to stay active and creative. Bennett is also an active member of the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society at MCC, upholding strong standards in both academic areas and community service.
- With support from the Associated Students of Miles Community College (ASMCC), a brave group of MCC student leaders and student athletes were “Freezin’ for a Reason”, jumping into a pool of icy water at the Polar Plunge at the Miles City Christmas Stroll on December 6. The Polar Plunge is a signature event of the Law Enforcement Torch Run, organized and led by LETR officers and dedicated volunteers. The fundraiser supports Special Olympics Montana. The MCC Pioneers led all Miles City teams (15 total) in cumulative donations, bringing in \$3,629 of the \$25,000 raised at the Miles City event, and brought the travelling trophy back to the MCC campus for the year. MCC team members included Katie Pickering and Walker Bennett, students recognized in the past year by Montana Campus Compact/Montana Campus Network for Civic Engagement for their service and leadership.

START HERE — Go Anywhere