



# MISSOULA COLLEGE

## COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

### AUGUST 2020

#### INSIDE ...



TECH SKILLS FOR TOMORROW



COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

Despite the pandemic, we've continued to experience many successes at Missoula College. Students were able to complete degrees or certificates on-time and in the case of our Spring 2020 nursing cohort earlier than anticipated. We saw 911 regional high school students earn college credit through dual enrollment at Missoula College. We've established new partners to provide technical training for members of our local workforce and developed new health programs which will serve specific needs in our local community. We're fortunate to have community partners willing to generously share their capital and equipment to support programs in the industrial trades education.

We are proud of our students, faculty and staff, and our efforts would not be possible without the support of the Missoula Community.



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## HEALTH PROGRAMS VS COVID-19

As part of Missoula College's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we decided to expedite the graduations of our 16 Nursing students. We wanted to ensure they were available for the work force, many of them were hired soon after the accelerated graduation.

Our Surgical Technology program donated thousands of pieces of PPE to local hospitals and health facilities and our Respiratory Care program made the four ventilators we have in stock available to area hospitals.

We, along with the National Guard, explored the possibility of using Missoula College as a treatment center to assist with overflow traffic in hospitals. While we are grateful the offer hasn't been taken up yet, we stand ready to assist our community as needed.

## FELCO TEAMS UP WITH MC

Felco Industries has partnered with Missoula College's Welding and Heavy Equipment Operation (HEO) programs to donate a compaction bucket to the HEO program. The bucket, an attachment for an excavator and worth almost \$20,000, is the result of welding student Thomas Fortunati's capstone project. It will first be put to use by the HEO program this Fall on a forest service project in the community.

Thomas was assisted by fellow welding students (not pictured) Jason McDonald, Brenton Pluid, and Hunter Hastig, all of whom will receive practical fabrication experience for their work. Felco provided shop oversight as well as the materials, designs, and equipment needed to complete the project. Completed over Spring Break, this project comes to fruition nearly two years after Felco and Missoula College initially began discussing its potential. We can't thank Felco Industries enough for their contributions and eagerness to collaborate with our HEO and Welding programs.

## KENWORTH SALES TRUCK DONATION

In honor of Kenworth Sales' 75th birthday, the company donated a 2014 Kenworth T800 to the Commercial Driver's Licensing (CDL) program at Missoula College.

Kenworth Sales generosity, while unexpected, is greatly appreciated. As a result of the donation, CDL students will gain valuable hands-on experience that will enable them to enter, and be competitive in, the workforce.

We are blessed and fortunate to have local businesses that want to invest in the education and future of our community's youth. It is truly a special thing when different groups within a community can come together, especially when it involves the bettering of our next generation.



## DUAL ENROLLMENT GROWTH

Since its inception in 2008, the Dual Enrollment program has grown steadily. Last Spring, more than 700 high school students from in and around Missoula were earning dual credit through the program, with nearly half taking more than one course. High schoolers enrolled in the program have the option to take classes on campus, though the vast majority earn credit through work they're already doing in their high schools. Each high school offers its own selection of classes that students can take to earn dual credit. These range anywhere from college algebra to more technical classes like computer programming and welding.

While participation in dual enrollment isn't free, it is substantially cheaper than the standard cost of higher education. This program offers high school students a great opportunity to not only get a jump start on college credits, but to do so in a cost-effective manner. Students participating in dual enrollment also receive access to a number of benefits such as library usage, access to tutoring and advising, and other student services.

Credits earned through this program are accepted statewide and at a number of institutions around the country.

## ABOUT MISSOULA COLLEGE

Missoula College is an integrated two-year college of the University of Montana. Its mission is to deliver workforce education, transfer education, developmental education, and community education. Career-related associate degrees and certificates are offered in nearly 40 different areas with academic pathways for: industrial trades, business and finance, information technology, health professions, social and behavioral sciences, culinary arts and hospitality services, and legal studies. Transfer education provides students the option of completing the first two-years of their bachelor's degree in preparation for transfer to a four-year college. Missoula College has open enrollment and affordable tuition. We are the college for the Missoula Community.

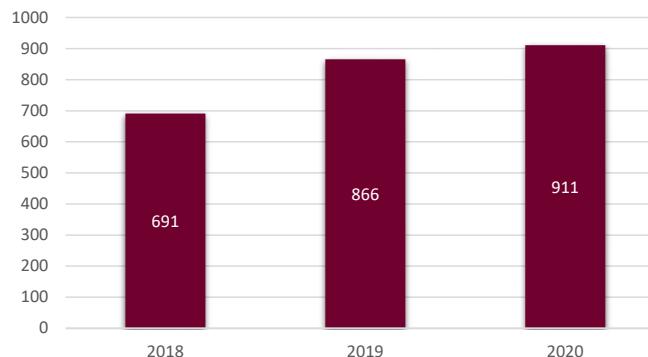
**NEARLY 40 DIFFERENT PROGRAMS**

**IN PERSON, REMOTE, AND ONLINE LEARNING OPTIONS AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS**

**13:1 STUDENT TO FACULTY RATIO**

**ONE-YEAR COST RECOVERY FOR ALL AVAILABLE PROGRAMS**

## DUAL ENROLLMENT SUCCESS



**MORE THAN 3,000 DUAL ENROLLMENT CREDITS ACCUMULATED IN 2020**

## OPEN CAMPUS 2020

With the Fall Semester underway, we are taking the safety and well-being of our community very seriously. As a public space in Missoula we are strictly adhering to all guidelines and recommendations given by the Missoula City-County Health Department. All classrooms and study areas are following proper social distancing guidelines. Hand sanitizer is available on every floor of the building, and surfaces are being wiped down at least once a day.

Students have the option to take classes remotely, online, or in person. In-person classroom sizes are reduced and are following all of the above guidelines, as well as any additional ones at the professor's discretion. We are confident in our ability to operate in a safe, smart, and productive manner.

**BRAND NEW BUILDING AND FACILITIES**

**THREE STATE OF THE ART KITCHENS**

## TECH SKILLS FOR TOMORROW

Missoula College joined industry leaders Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Sumitomo Electric Lightwave in delivering a cutting-edge workforce education workshop as a part of the University of Montana's Tech Skills for Tomorrow initiative. Workshop participants received training on the latest fiber optic installation and repair technologies delivered by a team of world-class experts from Sumitomo Electric Lightwave. The late-October training activity was completed by a mixed cohort of Missoula College students and incumbent fiber installation professionals. The intensive, three-day classroom and lab-based training session concluded with 31 participants successfully completing a certification exam leading to an AWS Fiber Splicing Credential.

A networking career fair followed conclusion of the training seminar and potential employers were connected with newly certified students. "AWS wants to help train workers for today and for the future," stated Michael Punke, vice president of Global Public Policy, AWS. "Technicians who know how to use cutting-edge machines like the fusion splicer will be qualified to perform good jobs building the infrastructure needed to wire the country for the digital world. AWS appreciates the opportunity to work with Missoula College to provide this training."



Tom Gallagher, Dean of Missoula College, said the industry-driven program mirrors workforce demands for individuals skilled in fiber optic technologies, information technology, cloud computing, and cybersecurity in the local community, "we know the workforce demand for people with technology skills is skyrocketing, and this event exemplifies the desire by all of the contributors to prepare students for high-wage, high-demand careers." It is why we created the Tech Skills for Tomorrow initiative.

## NEW WORKFORCE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

### PARAMEDICINE ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAM

In partnership with Missoula Emergency Service Inc. (MESI), this Fall will mark the debut of our new Paramedicine degree. The 16-month program will provide students with the skills and education necessary to be a well-equipped paramedic. Each year in Missoula there are more than 10,000 emergency calls, each of which requires brave and qualified individuals to respond. We look forward to educating those that will.

### CHEMICAL ADDICTION STUDIES CTS

Our new Chemical Addiction CTS will be offered this Fall. The 16-month program will equip students with a better understanding of addiction and potential red flags associated with it. Addiction is an infuriating and frightening issue that impacts countless families throughout the United States. The much discussed opioid epidemic our nation is currently battling is evidence of this much.

The fight against addiction will require a huge effort, and we are determined to play a role in it.

### CLOUD COMPUTING CTS

Cloud computing has been identified by LinkedIn as the most highly sought-after hard skill in today's business world. Through a key partnership with industry giant Amazon Web Services, Missoula College began delivery of a new certificate program in Cloud Computing. Understanding key concepts in virtualizing resources has become a critical business skill transcending all IT platforms. Cloud computing expertise will enable graduates to serve workforce needs in the local IT industry.

### NEW MICRO-CREDENTIALS AVAILABLE

We are excited to begin offering three new micro-credentials this Fall. These one-semester programs are perfect for those that want to gain valuable skills but aren't interested in a long-term time commitment. The micro-credentials we're offering are serve safe, job-site ready, and career readiness. Serve safe teaches kitchen safety and basic culinary skills, job-site ready prepares students for construction site environments and career readiness enhances students' soft skills to make them more employable.

## MEET THE 2020 GRADUATES

We are incredibly proud of all our 2020 Graduates. While we would love to share all about each and every one of these accomplished individuals, we will highlight just a few here instead. Brandon, Jamie, Reyna, and Kwanele are shining examples of the motivated and driven student body we are blessed to have.

### BRANDON YERIAN

Brandon grew up, and has lived in the Bitterroot his whole life. He competed in rodeo throughout high school and as part of the UM Rodeo Team. For three years he worked a detailed and fast-paced construction job, but over time found the work to be repetitive and unfulfilling.

This led him to pursue his Associate degree in Administrative Management. As part of the Administrative Management program, students are required to gain relevant experience by completing an internship. Brandon was placed with a lumber sales firm and gained tons of valuable experience, even becoming familiar with the Paycheck Protection Program.

### JAMIE McNALLY

Jamie graduated with her Business Media Design and Social Media Management Certificates. A journalism major, Jamie discovered these certificates whilst looking for courses that she found interesting and would apply to her bachelors degree.

Through the attainment of these certificates, Jamie worked closely with software applications such as Adobe InDesign and Photoshop. When asked about the value she gained from these certificates, Jamie replied "I was surprised to find just how useful these certificates would be to my education and toward my future career... it was a great experience and I learned so much that I otherwise wouldn't have."



## REYNA CARRANZA

Reyna graduated this Spring with an Associate Degree in Accounting Technology. This achievement comes four years after she began her journey at Missoula College. Despite working a full-time job and raising her two daughters, Reyna found time to earn her Associate Degree. Calling this feat impressive would be an understatement. In her own words “It was an interesting journey working full-time, raising my two girls, and going to college. There were times I did not think I would find the energy to get everything done.” Reyna later added that “It was all worth it to show my girls that with hard work and dedication, you can achieve your goals.”



## KWANELE NGEMA

An immigrant from Johannesburg South Africa, Kwanele has come a long way both literally and figuratively. Having grown up in a one-bedroom house in one of the poorest areas of the city, opportunities were few and far between. Nevertheless, Kwanele navigated the choppy waters, eventually finding his way to the USA in 2011. After bouncing around the states for a few years, he ultimately settled in Montana and has been here ever since. Working multiple jobs to save for college while acclimating to a new culture, not to mention the snow, is certainly no easy task. And yet, he succeeded, achieving his Associate Degree in Administrative Management this past Spring.

Kwanele and his wife plan to stay in Montana and raise their family in Hamilton. With one child here and another on the way, it's safe to say Kwanele and his wife have a lot on their plates. If Kwanele's past is any indication, this new 'challenge' won't be much of one at all.

