

Great Falls College Montana State University

Report to the Community 2014-2015



**GREAT FALLS
COLLEGE**

**MONTANA STATE
UNIVERSITY**

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Welcome

Great Falls College MSU

Annual Report

2014-2015

Vision

In the next decade, Great Falls College MSU will play a leading role in transforming the lives of our students, their communities and the economic prosperity of Montana by responding to learner and community needs through the use of partnerships, innovation, outreach and technology.

Mission

Our Mission is to foster the success of our students and their communities through innovative, flexible learning opportunities for people of all ages, backgrounds, and aspirations resulting in self-fulfillment and competitiveness in an increasingly global society.

Values

Accountability - We ensure our decisions are data-informed and grounded in the best interest of our students and their communities.

Integrity - We value civic responsibility, high academic standards, ethical practices, and the courage to act.

Lifelong Learning - We believe education is a lifelong necessity and commitment; we personify this belief by engaging and re-engaging students from all generations in learning opportunities.

Respect - We value differences and treat others with civility, encouraging open and honest communication.

Responsiveness - We recognize and act upon opportunities to be innovative, flexible, and adaptable to our students' and communities' needs.

Student Success - We are dedicated to student success and achievement; we strive to meet the educational needs of our students and their communities.

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Great Falls College MSU On The Move

Introduction

Colleges, especially two-year colleges, must change and reinvent themselves with the times. “The economy is changing, national demographics are changing, and in this new and evolving work environment, two-year colleges will be the driving force behind the future workforce,” said Carol Lincoln, senior program director at MDC, an education and workforce consultancy.

Because two-year institutions in Montana are the most affordable, they are the workhorses of higher education in the state. They serve multiple roles, including helping students catch up through developmental classes; preparing students for transfer to four-year institutions; and providing specialized workforce and job skills training. They also reach non-traditional college students—single parents, low-income, minorities, part-time, first generation, veterans, active military and other adults, who are seeking specific knowledge and skills. With new companies coming to town and old companies closing; with the population aging; with veterans returning home; with new technology being used in business and old technology being discarded; and with students at a distance asking for access, two-year institutions must be ready to meet increasingly different demands for higher education.

Great Falls College Montana State University Is On the Move

Great Falls College MSU keeps moving, and so does its students. To help students on their path GFC MSU offers over 50 transfer options, including opportunities in business and engineering. The college also works with employers to ensure students are getting the knowledge they need to be successful in employment. Great Falls College MSU offers tutoring support through both the Academic Success Center, and the Veterans Center. Both are places where students can get the help they need; whether that's help with Math or English, or just a quiet space to get work done. Furthermore, Great Falls College MSU has invested in relevant and cutting edge technology to help students learn in an environment where they can use technology, which complements industry.



“The economy is changing, national demographics are changing, and in this new and evolving work environment, two-year colleges will be the driving force behind the future workforce,”

- Carol Lincoln, senior program director at MDC, an education and workforce consultancy

Average
Class Size
17

Faculty to
Student Ratio
18/1

70% of
Students
Work at
Least
Part-Time

College Planning, Budget, Analysis Committee (CPBAC).

CPBAC committee is the embodiment of Great Falls College MSU's commitment to shared governance.

Meeting throughout the year, the group has a hand in all facets of college decision making and is institutionalized to ensure the work needed to achieve the college's mission is on target, tracked, and appropriately funded.

CPBAC memberships includes individuals representing all of the departments and divisions at Great Falls College MSU, including classified staff, faculty and students. The four-part charge of the committee is to 1) communicate the budgeting, planning & analysis process to campus stakeholders and constituents, 2) gather and interpret institutional

data to evaluate the performance and effectiveness at the institutional, divisional and departmental level, 3) lead the development and aggregation of budget projections, strategic and annual plans, and 4) work with college leadership to allocate resources strategically to improve overall institutional effectiveness.

In accordance with open meeting laws and to honor transparency, CPBAC meetings are open to the campus community and public.

Financial Report 2014-2015 Report

Operating Revenues	
Tuition and Fees	\$ 5,131,646
Pell Grants (Financial Aid)	\$ 4,113,761
State Appropriation	\$ 7,369,367
Other Revenues	\$ 3,856,131
Grants	\$ 2,011,753
Gifts	\$ 147,914
Total Revenues	\$ 22,630,571
Operating Expenses	
Personnel	\$ 10,913,623
Operations	\$ 7,753,109
Scholarships & Financial Aid	\$ 4,770,176
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 23,436,909

- Cash in non-current unrestricted fund can be carried over from year to year, causing a difference in revenues and expenses.

- Unaudited financial statements for July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015.

- ▶ **Number of Employees 211**
- ▶ **Full-Time Faculty 45**
- ▶ **Part-Time Faculty 70**
- ▶ **Professional Staff 34**
- ▶ **Classified Staff 48**
- ▶ **Number of Administrators 8**
- ▶ **Full-Time to Part-Time Faculty Ratio .64**
- ▶ **Number of Faculty with Advanced Degrees 27**
- ▶ **Number of Administrators with Advanced Degrees 6**



Who We Serve

Deciding to attend college can be a difficult decision. There are questions that need to be answered. The Admissions office at Great Falls College MSU is designed to be the resource students need to answer those questions. The Admissions office is a student's directional compass, a cheerleader, a sounding board and an accountability partner.

Admissions personnel are a student's personal search engines—"Google" of the academic world. Any question a student has, Admissions will find the answer.

Admissions can help with a full spectrum of questions associated with anything prior to the first day of class:

- ▶ Is the student ready for college?
- ▶ What are the student's interests?
- ▶ What is the student's skill set?
- ▶ How does a student connect their interest to a degree?
- ▶ Are jobs available with that degree?
- ▶ What options are available to assist with paying for college?
- ▶ What is an advisor?
- ▶ What is a PIN?
- ▶ What password?
- ▶ Where are rooms located?
- ▶ What are the deadlines?
- ▶ Where do students get their books?

Maybe it's not just the student with these questions, maybe it's their family. Admissions will work with the student and the family to ensure a full understanding before sitting down for the first class.

GFC MSU STATS

17 AVERAGE CLASS SIZE

71% OF STUDENTS RELY ON FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

18/1 STUDENT TO FACULTY RATIO

AVERAGE AGE OF GFC MSU STUDENTS **29**

70% OF STUDENTS WORKING AT LEAST PART-TIME

10% OF STUDENTS ARE VETERANS, OR SPOUSES AND/ OR DEPENDENTS OF VETERANS

PERCENT OF STUDENTS RAISING CHILDREN **36%**

37% OF STUDENT BODY WHO ARE FIRST GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS

Great Falls College MSU Veterans Center

The Great Falls College MSU Veterans Center provides support and assistance for our student veterans, active military, their spouses and dependents.

-Veterans using the center retain at a 95% rate - over 20% higher than the general population of 73.5%.

-Veterans using the center average a 3.3 GPA.

The center affords access to tutoring, counseling and mentoring services. It also provides a common area with computers, lockers, kitchen facilities and a printer for veterans use. Periodically the center brings seminars to campus covering a wide range of veteran specific topics. Most importantly the Veterans Center maintains an area for student veterans to gather away from the busy life of college and form the support groups that are so common in military units. Statistics clearly demonstrate that student veterans who use these services outperform the general student body in three key areas:

grade point average, retention and graduation.

The Veterans Center is staffed by a Veterans Success Coach, whose primary duties are overseeing the Veterans Center programs and serving as an advocate for student veterans. Other responsibilities include coordinating activities honoring our military and being a liaison between the veterans and campus or community resources. The Veterans Success Coach serves as the point of contact for all military related matters within our campus.



Great Falls College MSU Disability Services

Great Falls College MSU is committed to providing equal access and accommodation for all educational and programmatic opportunities at the college for students with diagnosed disabilities.

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 (Title II), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, individuals with disabilities are entitled to reasonable accommodations in order to ensure access.

Students with disabilities have a right to reasonable accommodations in order to fully participate in the postsecondary educational experience. Students with disabilities are encouraged to advocate for themselves to the extent possible, and Disability Services provides support and assistance in determining what

accommodations are best suited to each individual.

Disability Services at Great Falls College MSU prides itself on being responsive to students by providing equal access to all programs, services, and activities on our campus. Students can also benefit from direct support and technical assistance for assistive technology and assistive loan equipment. Disability Services promotes self-advocacy, independence, learning, and goal attainment for students who have a disability.

Disability Services Accommodations



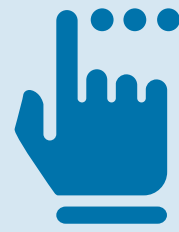
Wheelchair Ramps



Tape recording lectures



Sign Language interpreters



Vision Impaired Services



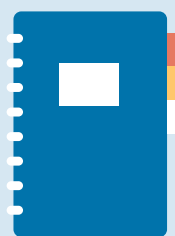
Preferential Classroom Seating



Extended Test Time



Adaptive computer equipment/software



Note takers

Financial Aid for 2013-2014

Fund	Amount	# Receiving
PELL Grant	\$4,330,488.00	1281
Subsidized Direct Stafford Loans	\$3,355,523.00	1201
Unsubsidized Direct Stafford Loans	\$3,830,644.00	1062
Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant	\$63,459.00	69
Montana Baker Grants	\$81,774.00	95
Montana Higher Education grants	\$34,640.00	39
State Aid Supplemental Grant	\$25,435.00	26
Federal College Workstudy	\$38,443.00	24
State College Workstudy	\$41,760.00	16
Access Grants	\$48,650.00	52
Gear Up Grants	\$7,500.00	5
College Access Challenge Grants	\$21,000.00	21
Total Number of Individuals receiving aid		1699
Percent of students on financial aid averages		66.00%
Average annual household income for dependent aid applicants	\$58,746.00	
Average annual income of independent aid applicants	\$23,164.00	
Montana High School Honor Scholarship recipients	2496	1
Average annual Stafford Loan Indebtedness	\$3,246.00	

Veteran Information		
Students using Chapter 1606 & 1607 Guard Benefit		17
Students using Chapter 30 Montgomery GI Bill		20
Students using Chapter 35 Dependent Educational Benefit (for spouses and dependent children of veterans 100% disabled or deceased as a result of a service injury)		26
Students using Veterans Retraining Assistance Benefit		13
Total financial assistance received under the above: (benefit paid directly to the students)	\$455,984.66	
Students using Chapter 31 Vocational Rehab Benefit (GFC MSU receives full payment of tuition and fees, books, student receives housing allowance)		33
Students using Chapter 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill (GFC MSU receives full payment of tuition and fees, student receives housing and book allowance)		117
Total number of veterans receiving benefits		226



Driving Down the Cost of an Education With Scholarships and Partnerships

President Obama recently proclaimed that community college enrollment should be free to students, but that conversation among legislators will continue for a long time. Meanwhile good people are slipping through the cracks. Even if the day should arrive that tuition is free, students will have fees, childcare, books, supplies, and transportation expenses that can be costly.

In Cascade County, 26.4 percent of the residents age 25 and older have a high school diploma but no college education.* The statistics are no different in surrounding counties, and, in most cases, there's a larger number of individuals without a post-secondary education. Of Cascade County residents who are age 25 and older, an additional 29 percent have some college but no degree.

A May 2015 Atlantic Monthly article points out that the principal reason for the widening gap in income inequality throughout the country is the unequal distribution of college degrees and certificates. Anthony P. Carnevale, the director of the Georgetown University Center on Education said, "70 percent of that inequality is derived from differences in access to higher education. The problem [started in 1983 and] has gotten worse and worse, and worse."

Let's bring circumstances home to the individual in North Central Montana. In reality most adults who have a driving desire to get a college degree leading to a career with more pay, have a low-paying job and children who are supported by that job. With that responsibility, the college dream is often put aside.

**Statistics from Montana Department of Labor and Industry.*

Potential Students Often Find College Enrollment Beyond Their Financial Reach

Seventy percent of GFC MSU students who are presently pushing to earn a degree or certificate qualify for some sort of financial aid. That indicates that they come from families in the 40 percent or lower income brackets. Over the years that percentage has remained consistent, and likely it will remain true in the ensuing years.

Governmental financial aid is awarded to college students on a sliding scale and ranged in 2014-2015 from \$450 to \$5730. The total for books, tuition and fees averages around \$4500. Most often there is a negative disparity between financial aid and the cost of college.

Another group of students — both present and potential — are those who do not qualify for financial aid but still do not have the extra income for a college education. Daycare and living expense eat up their take-home pay.

Last year 36 percent of students had children who depended on their care, 15 percent were single mothers, and 65 percent worked part time while 20 percent worked 30 or more hours a week while attending college. When students — both with and without financial aid — continue to work, it creates an additional strain on family life not for just a few days but for as much as two years. There's no doubt about it, many present Great Falls College MSU students are financially needy and live with time constraints, and so are those who have the potential to attend.

Great Falls College MSU Strives to Drive Down Financial Barriers for Students

Great Falls College MSU wants to assist students who are excited about continuing their education. The goal is to drive down the financial barriers. A step in helping with students' expenses is collaboration with businesses, individuals, and university partners, such as the Great Falls Public Schools and the units of the University System

with ways to offer courses that ease the financial burden of college.

The Great Falls Public Schools and the Great Falls Public Schools Foundation have become active in assisting Great Falls high school students who want to enroll in college courses at GFC MSU. Last year \$13,235 helped 11 high school students take individual college courses. Additionally, fourteen students received \$500 each toward their tuition to enter the welding and carpentry programs.

The emphasis has been to increase access by offering a 1+3 engineering program giving area students the opportunity to enroll at the college for the first 32 credits of engineering study. The College of Engineering at Montana State University Bozeman accepts those credits, and students go on to complete a bachelor's degree on the Bozeman campus. The opportunity to remain in Great Falls one of the four years is a reduction of \$3600 in tuition costs plus a savings in living expenses. Four individuals, studying to become engineers, will receive scholarships given by community businesses and foundations to help with their college expenses at GFC MSU this next year. The engineering firms that provide these scholarships are optimistic that these individuals will return to Great Falls to raise their families and to work in their firms.

For the 2014-2015 academic year, 26 scholarships were given to GFC MSU students. The average age of a scholarship recipient was 29. The oldest was 62, and the youngest, 18. The total amount was \$93,000. These scholarships have been given by single donors, families, businesses, and non-profits. Over the course of this last year, Great Falls College MSU has grown its endowed funds by an additional \$750,000. The Cameron endowments brought 18 new scholarships alone. These scholarships will continue to provide for students in perpetuity. This is a start, but it isn't nearly enough to award to energetic,

serious students who struggle to attend college.

Development Board Seeks Scholarships

The college looks to its Great Falls College MSU Development Board to share the need for scholarships with the community.

Since 2010, the Great Falls College MSU Development Board has been visible in the community. Development Board members actively provide information for those interested in creating endowed scholarships or those who want to add funding to scholarships that are already in place so that additional students can benefit. No amount is too small. Donor gifts of all sizes are leveraged against other gifts to make an impact on students.

Emphasis has also been placed on scholarships which pay for childcare at the Bright Beginning Learning Center located on campus. Students know their children are in a healthy environment while they themselves are in classes or studying. Of the 47 college students who utilized the daycare center this last year, five received scholarships for daycare. Additional scholarships are needed.

Establishing a Scholarship Provides a Student with a New Beginning

"Earning a college degree or certificate develops the individual," said Tom Hanks, the actor, in a May 2015 issue of Reader's Digest. "I drove past [California's Hayward Community College] campus a few years ago with one of my kids and summed up my two

years there this way, 'That place made me what I am today'."

Through scholarships, Great Falls College MSU can give more students a shot at a life-changing experience that attaining a degree or certificate at a two-year college can provide.

If you have ever dreamed of a college education, don't hesitate. Walk through the big front doors of Great Falls College MSU and enter Student Central. Find out if financial assistance might be available to you.

Because you realize the financial struggle of completing a college degree, commit a selfless act by providing financial assistance for someone in your community whom you may not know, but who wants to seek new horizons, to learn, and to begin a new career.

ISSKSINIIP Scholarship Moves Recipient Toward Her Goals

For the last three years, the ISSKSINIIP Project, which pays tuition, books and supplies, and other select expenses, has given a number students studying in healthcare programs at six Montana colleges the ability to continue their education.

For Tahran Elder, who studied to be a licensed practical nurse (LPN) at GFC MSU, the scholarship lightened a heavy financial burden from her husband's shoulders the last semester she was in college. After graduating in May 2014, she went to work at the Grandview Rehabilitation Center for a year, but she knew she was just getting started in attaining her educational goals. She is currently enrolled in the LPN to RN (Registered Nurse) Transition course at GFC MSU.

Growing up, Tahran had wanted to be a teacher. Then she took the training to become

a Certified Nurse Attendant (CNA), and she loved being with patients.

It was then she decided to take the next step in her education by enrolling in the LPN program.

"When I started back to college, I told myself that I was a mother to my three children first. I want those who are thinking about going to college to know that I didn't miss attending my children's activities. I was satisfied with being an A and B student."

The family pulled together while Tahran was taking classes. Although she felt that she should have been working, her husband told her that he would take care of the finances and she should study. He took a better paying job, but it was as an over-the-road trucker. He was gone a majority of the time. No one enjoyed that, but it was necessary. Her mother and grandmother also stepped



in to help. "I had a fantastic support team," Tahran said.

In the evenings she and the children studied for school together. "I wanted to show my children that having a good education was worth the effort that it took. We made study time comfortable and fun."

Tahran's family knows about and supports her in continuing her education. She plans to attain a bachelor's degree in nursing after she becomes a registered nurse. "Then I'm going for my master's degree in nursing. I found that I have thoroughly enjoyed opportunities to mentor some of the staff at Grandview. I want to put my two loves together by teaching nursing. I will get there in time."

Good Luck Tahran!

Available Public & Private Scholarships

Aid Year 13-14 Scholarships:	Amount	Number of Students
Institutionally chosen:		
Darcy Dengel	\$950.00	1
Governor's Need Based	\$64,500.00	84
Knud and Katherine Grosen BBLC	\$1,000.00	1
Roland and Helen Lapee Family Foundation BBLC	\$1,000.00	1
Pacific Steel & Recycling BBLC	\$1,000.00	2
General BBLC	\$1,000.00	2
Loenbro Welding Scholarships	\$3,744.00	3
Heisey	\$39,610.00	40
Issksiniip Scholarship	\$144,734.81	26
Jane McAllister Dental Assisting	\$300.00	1
Math Scholarship	\$24,000.00	60
GFC MSU Scholarship	\$3,000.00	6
GFC MSU License Plate	\$300.00	1
MT Community Foundation	\$5,400.00	4
MT Dental Hygienist Association	\$1,000.00	1
Rumford Gabbert Memorial	\$1,500.00	2
Sara Holman Memorial	\$1,000.00	1
Spectrum Medical Nursing	\$350.00	1
Spectrum Medical Respiratory	\$350.00	1
Will Weaver Scholarship	\$1,000.00	1
Subtotal	\$295,738.81	
In State Outside:		
MT General	\$131,067.04	78
Governor's Merit/At large	\$12,000.00	7
MT State Fund Scholarship	\$2,000.00	1
Subtotal	\$145,067.04	
Out of State Outside:		
Air Force Aid Society	\$17,600.00	10
Americorps	\$16,076.07	12
Out of State General	\$17,241.46	9
Subtotal	\$50,917.53	
Total	\$491,723.38	356

Scholarships Available:

Bright Beginnings Learning Center Scholarships for Childcare

- Janie and Stuart Nicholson Scholarship
- Gerry and Chuck Jennings Scholarship
- Roland and Helen Lapee Family Foundation Scholarship
- Knud and Katherine Grosen Scholarship

Academic Scholarships

- Dan and Mary Beth Ewen Scholarship
- The Front Brewing Scholarship
- GFC MSU Advancement Scholarship
- GFC MSU Bookstore Scholarship
- GFC MSU Collegiate License Plate Scholarship
- GFC MSU Scholarship
- GFC MSU Scholarship Endowment
- Great Falls Pachyderm Club Scholarship
- Heisey Memorial Scholarship
- High Plains Memorial Scholarship Endowment
- Loenbro Welding Scholarship
- Montana Community Foundation
- MT Dental Hygienists' Association Scholarship
- NorthWestern Energy Welding Scholarship
- A Night Out for Science Scholarship
- Robert and Helen Rumford Gabbert Memorial Endowment
- Spectrum Medical Inc. Scholarship
- Stevens Music Scholship
- Will Weaver Honorary Endowment
- Dufresne Engineering 1+3 Scholarship
- Thomas, Dean, and Hoskins Engineering Transfer Scholarship
- Stockman Bank 1 + 3 Engineering Scholarship
- Sara Holman Memorial Scholarship
- Nancy Cameron Award for Excellence
- Cameron Business Scholarship
- Cameron Engineering Scholarship
- Cameron Health Sciences Scholarship
- Cameron General Scholarship
- Those Who Serve Cameron Scholarship
- Pay It Forward Scholarship
- David & Tanya Cameron STEM Scholarship
- Stelling Engineering – Civil Engineering Scholarship

The Great Falls College MSU Community Choir

In fall of 2014 the Great Falls College & Community Choir was added to the curriculum.

Since that time, the ensemble has been busy making a name for itself in the Great Falls community. During its first semester, the ensemble presented seven public performances including: Cambridge Court Senior Assisted Living, First Presbyterian Church, The Mayor's Office (twice), a Flash Mob at Scheel's Department Store, and a Holiday Concert on the Campus of Great Falls College MSU. The highlights of the fall semester included receiving a Proclamation from Mayor Winters and an invitation to Carnegie Hall!

The spring semester was equally busy with performances and fundraising efforts. The 55 voice ensemble performed for Higher Education Night, Black History Month, and had a return invitation to First Presbyterian Church. The Great Falls College/Community Choir was the featured guest choir at the University of Great Falls Spring Concert. A collaboration with the Great Falls Young People's Choir also created enthusiasm and interest in the fall and spring semesters. The Spring Concert was a very special experience as we were accompanied by instrumentalists from the Great Falls Symphony Orchestra. The spring semester also included our first efforts in fundraising for our trip to Carnegie Hall in New York City. The Feast of Sweets, held in February, earned approximately \$4,000 toward our goal, additionally with a wonderful gift from Ms. Nancy Cameron who gave \$50,000 to help the choir get to Carnegie Hall.

The Small Vocal Ensemble, a select group of singers from the larger choir, performed on KRTV in the fall, and for the Chamber of Commerce,

Highwood School and Tunes on Tap in the spring.

It is estimated that the Great Falls College Community Choir has performed for over 1,500 people in its first year in existence.

The Humanities/Fine Arts Department of Great Falls College MSU has also hosted events on campus that aim to involve the community in the life of the college. In the fall of 2014, Great Falls College MSU collaborated with the Great Falls Public School system to bring "Ergon" — an art installation featuring the work of over one hundred K-12 art students — to campus. We are working to maintain a revolving art gallery in the Administrative Suite and the Weaver Library.

Solero Flamenco, a performing ensemble, was our guest for one week in March. They performed over seven concerts that week for area high schools, dance studios and Spanish language classes culminating in a standing room only concert at the end of the week. For the second year, we hosted artists from the Piatigorsky Foundation. We were pleased to be able to provide recital space for Sarah Raines, soprano and the Yellowstone Chamber Players. These performance options were very helpful for students in the music classes who must attend



live performance as part of their class requirements.

The Great Falls College/Community Choir has been invited to perform a debut concert in Carnegie Hall on May 30, 2016. On this concert, the choir will feature the music of Montana composers. A trip of this caliber is not inexpensive. Choir members have been working to secure the funding for this opportunity since the invitation was received in the fall of 2014. We hope to meet our fundraising efforts by December of 2015.

Strategic Enrollment Management

Given the forecasted demographic changes and economic pressures within our regional population, enrollments have declined for the majority of two-year colleges state-wide, including Great Falls College MSU. Within this challenging environment, the college must be strategic in its enrollment efforts. Not only is it important to continue to attract new students (recruitment), it is equally important to

focus on students' flow through the institution (retention), and persistence to degree (completion). Student factors to consider are quality learning, skill attainment, and positive student engagement experiences (Ewell & Wellman, 2007).

In anticipation of these current enrollment challenges, a strategic enrollment management (SEM) team was appointed. For the last two years the SEM team has conducted an environmental scan of Great Falls College MSU, which resulted in a report to the campus community outlining key areas for action. In the spring of 2015 the college Planning, Budget, and Analysis Committee voted to move forward the following two SEM initiatives to the college's Executive

Team, which approved them as SEM initiatives for the next two to three years starting in fall 2015.

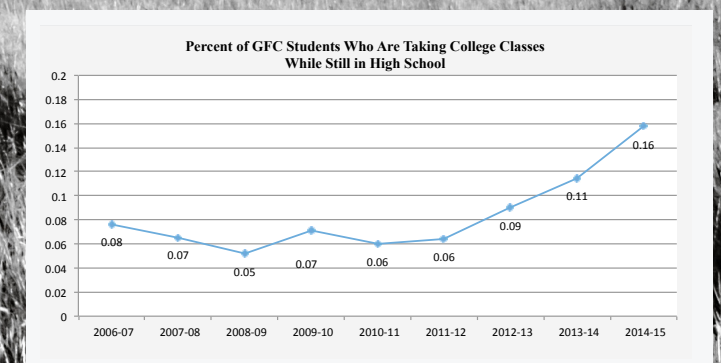
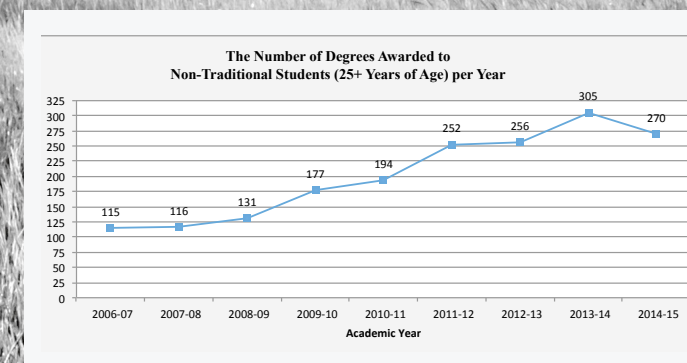
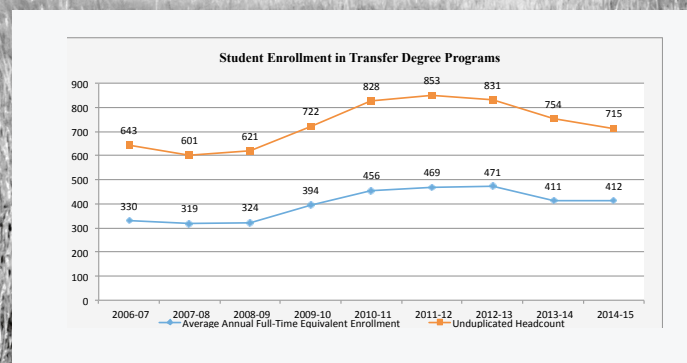
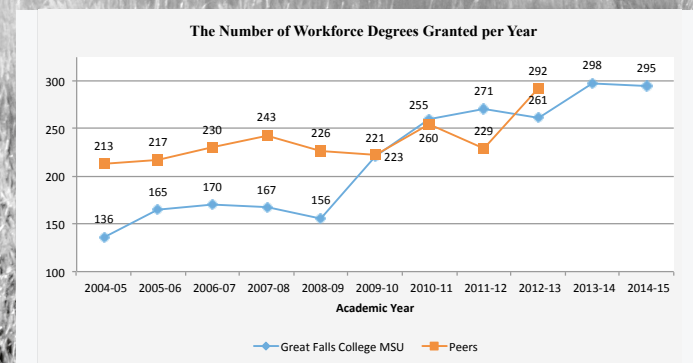
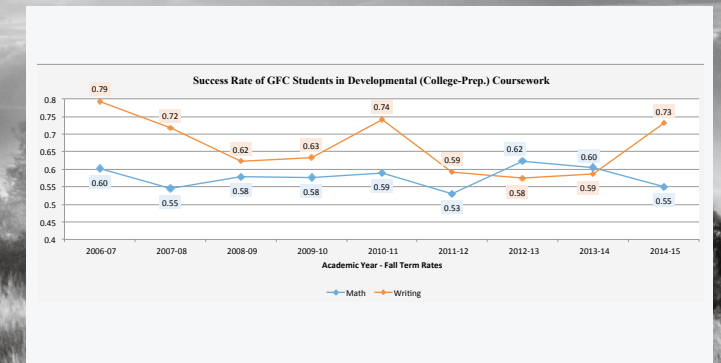
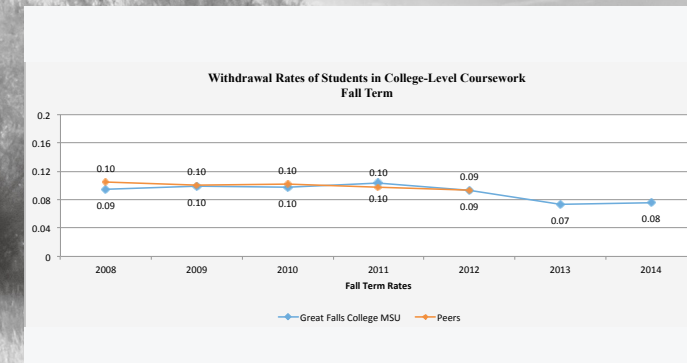
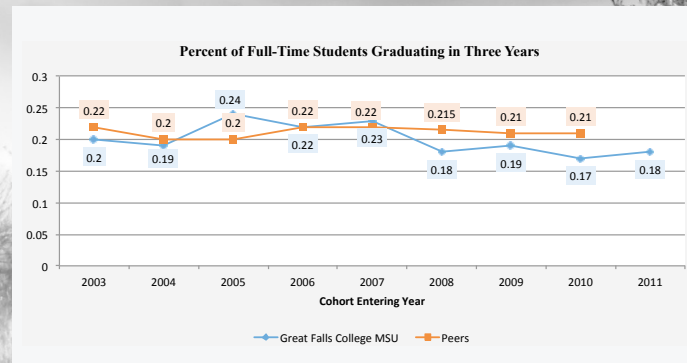
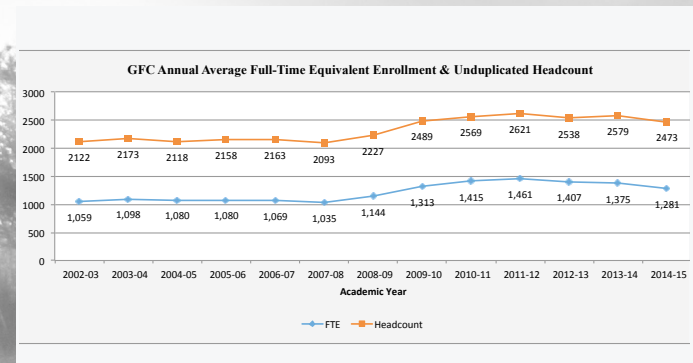
- 1. The 'Front End' student experience will focus on better preparing incoming students for college life before enrollment.**
- 2. Online course and program recruitment will focus on marketing that may increase participation and increase enrollment in these areas.**

This process will be most effective when enrollment management is integrated with the institution's strategic plan, academic master plan, mission, and vision (Moore & Sigler, 2011).

*Ewell, P., & Wellman, J. (2007). Enhancing student success in education. Washington, D.C.: National Postsecondary Education Cooperative.

*Moore, A., & Sigler, W. (2011, October). The core concepts of SEM. Presentation at AACRAO 21st Annual SEM Conference, San Diego, CA.

Great Falls College MSU 2014-2015 Report Card



Monies From Grants Make a Difference

At a recent open house held at GFC MSU, faculty and students were demonstrating a 3D printer, a welding simulator that students use to practice welding without needing test pieces, and a technology-driven distance learning center that allows students to do science laboratories from their home. All of this is new; all of it is innovative; and all of it is available to students attending GFC MSU.

These are three examples of the innovation that supports and enhances the environment of student learning. All three have become available through grants, mostly from the federal government. Without those grants, it would have been difficult for the college to teach with advanced techniques and technology that will be commonplace in the future.

Almost half of those attending colleges in the United State are found at two-year institutions that are attempting to serve students coming with a variety of academic and cultural backgrounds and with widely divergent academic interests.* Because a college education is the number-one factor in seeking a career and moving up on the economic ladder, what these colleges offer in quality experiences and how these two-year institutions are supported really matters. Presently budgets at two-year institutions are so fixed that there is nothing left over after paying for the bread and butter expenses. For example, 83% of GFC MSU's budget goes to salaries which is average across the country. Approximately 15% goes into operations, and 2% supports tuition waivers.

To give a college an avenue for establishing new programs that requires hiring faculty with a specialized skill, purchasing expensive and cutting-edge equipment that simulates the work environment, or setting up training sites and modules, money often has to come from sources other than the state budget.

"Innovation," said Susan Wolff, CEO/Dean of Great Falls College MSU, "that's what we are seeking when we decide to go after a particular grant. We want to give students access to the opportunities that will prepare them for their working future, and we want to provide an enriched college experience to all students—including those who are learning at a distance."

* <http://www.aacc.nche.edu/AboutCC/Trends/Pages/studentsatcommunitycolleges.aspx>

RevUP and the EDA Grant

With businesses like ADF International and LoenBro Fabrication plants in Great Falls, there is a need for welders, a lot of welders. Great Falls College MSU stepped up and tripled its intake by offering classes from 8 a.m. until midnight, but that still hasn't produced enough certified welders. With the resources of the EDA and RevUP Grants to pay for new space and equipment, the college will be able to double the space available in each of the three cohorts, and provide additional certified welders for these two and other fabrication companies.

The RevUP (funded by the Department of Labor) Grant provides for hiring 13 navigators, who are located at the two-year colleges that offer programs in energy and manufacturing. The navigators keep in contact with businesses as to the skills and number of employees needed. They are available to students to help with problems, whether personal or academic.

Four assessment centers around the state where students, who are taking a core of their courses online, can go for hands-on experience and testing are being provided through the RevUp Grant. These lab centers are available in places that are more convenient to students than requiring that they travel across state to distant campuses.

CHEO Grant

The North American Network of Science Labs Online (NANSLO) located at the college and funded by the Department of Labor CHEO grant is supervised by Brenda Canine, Ph.D. It is one lab of three in North America and also in an international network of science labs that uses remote web-based science lab technology providing students with the ability to perform real science experiments by using actual high-quality laboratory equipment. During a semester, the lab is available to as many as a hundred or more students living around the world — such as those students who have called in from New Zealand and Alaska and who are taking courses in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) that require lab work from those colleges that have an agreement with GFC MSU. The lab is open from noon until 8 p.m. Monday through Friday Mountain time, and one of two lab assistants — who are also students at the college — are on duty to troubleshoot for any possible problems, giving students at a distance confidence that someone is always available to assist. These lab classes are convenient to busy non-traditional students because lab experiments can be done around personal and work commitments. Students work in collaboration, learning skills that are transferable to many career situations. Through this lab, students have access to equipment that likely is not available to them locally. Because of the grant, at the present time the lab is available at no additional charge.

HealthCARE MONTANA

The HealthCARE MONTANA grant (funded by the Department of Labor) provides the foundation monies for GFC MSU to offer an Associate of Science in Nursing Program that will begin Spring 2016. Statewide stakeholders are determining the needed curriculum that will blend with other statewide programs. The college has hired a registered nurse faculty and a healthcare transformation specialist who will coordinate the transition of students

from the Practical Nurse program to the Registered Nurse program. Finally the grant will pay for adding the NANSLO lab to the distance learning portion of the program so that students in rural areas can do their science labs online.

"The HealthCARE MONTANA Grant offers a great opportunity for the GFC MSU nursing faculty to connect at the state level with other healthcare educators. Networking is vital. Also, the grant gives us support for expansion, and it allows us to offer our unique resources, such as the only simulation hospital in the state and one of only three Consortium for Healthcare

Education Online (CHEO) NANSLO nodes worldwide, to benefit healthcare education across the state," said Frankie Lyons, Health Science Division Director.

ISSKSINIIP Project

For the last three years, the ISSKSINIIP Project scholarship grant has provided healthcare students with the ability to attend college. It is a collaborative project with six Montana colleges that offer healthcare programs. Services included academic advising, mentoring,

tuition and fees, books and supplies, assessment testing, placement services, childcare and transportation. During the last three years 69 students at GFC MSU have been recipients. Of them 47 are now employed. Of the current 20 participants, 16 completed their studies Spring 2015 and three will complete by the end of the 2015 calendar year.

Personnel don't pursue just any grant to attain additional monies. They look for grants that solve a problem within the state or community. GFC MSU finds grants extremely important to serving the needs of students and their communities.

Spotlight on an Opportunity Afforded to a GFC MSU Student Through a Grant

Todd Larson, who has just finished two years at GFC MSU, was one of the lab assistants in the NANSLO lab this last year. The science and math courses he had taken at GFC MSU, along with his technology skills, made him the right choice for the lab assistant position.

At work, he responded to telephone calls that came into the lab, assisted students who came in for hands-on sessions, and solved any problems that arose.

Dr. Canine, the NANSLO supervisor, found Larson to be vital to the program. He was dependable and came to the job with customer service skills. "He moves on in his education, and I will miss both him and the other lab assistant, Clara Davison," she said.

Besides excelling in his classes and working in the lab this past year, Todd was the recipient of a

Montana Space Grant Consortium A.R.E.S. grant for his research on algae.

Todd will be studying cellular biology and neuroscience at Montana State University in Bozeman beginning in the fall.

Good Luck Todd!



Message from the CEO/Dean Dr. Susan J. Wolff



“Around here, however, we don’t look backwards for very long. We keep moving forward, opening up new doors and doing new things because we’re curious...and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths.”

Walt Disney

Great Falls College Montana State University – a college “on the move.”

Great Falls College Montana State University continues to be “on the move.” The college’s 7-Year regional accreditation from the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities was reaffirmed July 2015. The Commission commends the college for “1) updated technology systems and infrastructure for administrative, instructional, and student services; 2) active engagement with community organizations, business and industry, and school districts to respond to educational, workforce and economic development, and social needs of the community it serves; 3) creating

instructional facilities and labs to provide hands-on learning; 4) effective use of resources to expand facilities to serve business/industry/community needs; 5) an organizational structure that supports and enhances a seamless transition from developmental to college-level coursework; and 6) an ongoing commitment to an inclusive, transparent, and broad-based organizational planning and decision-making.”

The college also maintains specialized accreditation for 10 programs. These professional and peer reviews, self-studies, visits, and reports strongly point to a college “on the move.” The following takes you to the accreditation web page. <http://www.gfcmsu.edu/about/accreditation/index.html>.

As part of the seven year accreditation cycle, the campus community, using community input, has identified a new vision, mission, and core themes. The Board of Regents will review them in September. Stay tuned for the roll out of the plan of the college being “on the move.”

Although enrollment has declined since the economic recovery began, the college is serving more people than it did 10 years ago. The average age of the college’s students is 29, a bit younger as more high school graduates are choosing to attend GFC MSU right out of high school.

The percentage of students taking college courses while still in high school has grown from 6% in 2006-07 to 16%. The college partners with the Great Falls Public Schools to provide classes that count for both high school and college credit. In April 2015, Great Falls High School was recognized as the Montana High School of the Year for having the most students enrolled in these dual credit classes – 261 students, saving their families \$237,800. CM Russell High School ranked third, with 208 students – saving their families \$201,000. The partnership supports the community’s young generation to be “on the move” to their future.

The number of degrees awarded dipped from 454 to 427. Although this trend could be viewed with concern, the number of students who graduate has remained relatively constant from 369 graduates in 2013-14 to 366 in 2014-15. The constant stream of graduates reflects the excellent work the Admissions Office and Advising Center are doing to better direct students. Using data to determine what needs

improvement keeps the college “on the move.”

The growth in Workforce Degrees reflects the college’s focus on economic and workforce needs. In tandem with employer decisions to move their businesses in new directions or professions needing to hire professionals with new skills, the college is “on the move. Trucking companies in Montana have struggled to find licensed drivers. In response, the college offered its first Commercial Drivers’ License (CDL) class summer 2015. They will definitely be “on the move.”

The college grew its number of endowed scholarships, pledged gifts and holdings from \$414,164 to \$1,362,653.88. This directly reflects the value residents and communities place on the college’s direction. Two students received Montana NASA EPSCoR awards (Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research); a GFC MSU biology faculty was selected as a 2015 EPSCoR faculty participant. Striving to build interest and support for STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics), faculty held the first Night Out for Science. Almost 100 community residents participated in state-of-the-art laboratory activities and interacted with faculty. Twelve students enrolled in the 1+3 engineering program where they can spend their first year in classes that have a smaller faculty-to-student ratio, that cost less and that can transfer easily to four-year institutions. GFC MSU is “on the move.”

In its inaugural year, the College/Community Choir’s 55 vocalists performed throughout the region. The choir has been invited to perform works

by Montana composers at Carnegie Hall in May 2016. The college is also now the sponsoring entity for the Great Falls Young People’s Choir. People who love to sing are certainly “on the move” at the college.

Veterans have found great success from the support given in the college Veterans Center. The number of veterans using the center for tutoring, mentoring, job search, and peer support increased from 18 in fall 2013 to 63 in fall 2014 and the retention rate of those students from fall 2014 to spring 2015 was more than 90% compared to 74% for the general population. The college is proud to serve our active duty and veteran students and recognize the knowledge and skills they achieved in the military, and is honored to be part of their journey.

It is my pleasure to lead the college. As I study Steve Jobs, late CEO of Apple, I quote current CEO Tim Cook: “If you embrace that the things you can do are limitless, you can put your ding in the universe. You can change the world. Steve embedded non-acceptance of status quo into the company. He focused on making the best.” Thank you to the community residents; business, industry, government and education partners; generous donors of resources and time; students, faculty, staff, and administrators for joining me and guiding the college known for being “on the move” and staying focused on “being the best.”


Susan J. Wolff
CEO/Dean of Great Falls College MSU

Great Falls College Montana State University

Report to the Community 2014-2015



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COLLEGE**

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